16

Domestic Girlfriend

KEI SASUGA

DOMEX GIRL

Domestic Girlfriend

16

DOMESTIC GIRL

KEI SASUGA

DOME GIRL

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CHAPTER 145: PAPER-THIN RELATIONSHIP

NATSUO-KUN...

I LOVE YOU,

...THEN SHE CAN'T PLAY IT OFF...

...AS JUST BEING A BIG SISTER ANYMORE.

DID YOU GET THE HANG OF IT?

NO...

IF SHE DOES THIS...

IF SHE KISSES ME...

HINA-NEE...

ARE YOU USING THE PRACTICE APP I INSTALLED THE DAY WE GOT YOUR PHONE?

I MEAN, WE'RE CONNECTED ON LINE NOW, BUT YOU NEVER MESSAGE ME.

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HAVING TROUBLE USING IT.

SORRY ...

HUH ?

FLICK TYPING.

O-OH... NOT YET.

A-ANYWAY, I THINK YOU'VE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK, HINA-NEE.

COMING OVER TO TEASE ME ON YOUR WAY HOME FROM THE PARTY LIKE THIS...

LET ME CALL YOU A TAXI.

THE TRUTH IS...

I'M NOT TEASING YOU.

...I AAALWAYS LOVED YOU.

I ONLY SAID IT BECAUSE I PROMISED NOT TO CONTACT YOU ANY-MORE...

IN EXCHANGE FOR KEEPING OUR RELATIONSHIP A SECRET.

WHAT I SAID ON OSHIMA ...

WAS A LIE.

...THINGS ARE DIFFER-ENT NOW.

BUT ...

I...

SO, THAT'S ...

...WHAT SHE MEANT.

COME SPRING, YOU'LL BE A COLLEGE STUDENT,

AND I WON'T BE A TEACHER ANYMORE, HUH?

HINA-NEE?

HEY!

HUH? SHE FELL ASLEEP ?!

BUT ...

EVEN IF YOU TELL ME THAT NOW,

Wait just a little longer.

R-

RUI!

SO,

HINA-NEE CAME OVER BEFORE, HUH?

I DIDN'T WANNA WORRY YOU.

I'M SORRY ...

WE JUST HAD TEA AND TALKED, SO I DIDN'T THINK I NEEDED TO TELL YOU.

I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE SMART-PHONE THING.

I'M ...

GOING HOME.

...

HINA-NEE!

HANG ON A SEC.

THIS IS YOUR FIRST NIGHT STAY-ING OVER HERE...

WELL, WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?

BE-SIDES ...

MEMPHIS 19 79 ATH. DEPT.

YOU CAN'T GET HINA-NEE HOME IN A TAXI LIKE THAT.

!

AND IT'D BE WEIRD IF I WAS HERE WHEN SHE WOKE UP, RIGHT?

I WANT ...

...TO SORT OUT MY FEELINGS.

NEXT STOP,

IKEBUKURO.
IKEBUKURO.

タタン CHNK
タタン CHNK

The next station is Ikebukuro.

The doors on the left side...

タタン CHNK
タタン CHNK

プシュー!!

OH! THERE SHE IS!

RUI-RUIII!

DON'T SWEAT IT! ♥

SORRY TO ASK TO SPEND THE NIGHT ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

FINE.

YOU'RE WELCOME ANYTIME!

LONG TIME NO SEE!

COLOGNE
TRIEFER
CHRISTCHURCH
UPPSALA
WORMSER
WESTMINSTER
DURHAM

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?

I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE SOME OF MY FAVORITE TARTS AT HOME.

LET'S CHILL AND HAVE A GIRLS' NIGHT. ♥

SWEETS TASTE WAY BETTER...

...WHEN YOU HAVE THEM WITH FRIENDS.

MMM!

SO GOOD!

I GOT INVITED TO JOIN A LOT OF CLUBS, BUT...

THE FIRST YEAR IS ALL ABOUT LEARNING THE BASICS.

MMM. NOT AS MUCH AS I IMAGINED, I GUESS.

HOW'S COLLEGE GOING? IS MED SCHOOL AS BUSY AS IT SOUNDS?

SURE.

WANNA TRY MINE?

HE STILL GETS NERVOUS ABOUT HOLDING HANDS. IT'S SO ADORABLE. ♥

HUH. SOUNDS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING WELL.

...I WANT TO USE ALL OF MY FREE TIME TO GO ON DATES WITH RIKKUN.

WE'RE FINE...

UM...

...I GUESS.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU AND NATSUO-KUN LOVEY-DOVEY?

GET THIS, THE OTHER DAY, HE GAVE ME A BOUQUET AND A POEM TO CELEBRATE OUR FIRST MONTH ANNIVERSARY!

REALLY? THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE MUCH FOR ME ...

WHAAAT? NO WAY! IT WAS REALLY SWEET!

WANNA GO TO BED?

YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO CLOSE, MOMO...

OH, C'MON! ♥

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE SLEPT TOGETHER, HUH? ♥

SINCE YOU HAD PAJAMAS ON YOU,

I'M GUESSING YOU WERE PLANNING TO STAY SOME-WHERE.

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ?

HEY, RUI-RUI.

...I GOT HIT WITH A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT EMOTIONS ALL AT ONCE.

I WASN'T SURE WHAT I SHOULD DO ANYMORE.

WELL, IT'S LIKE ...

DID YOU GO TO NATSUO-KUN'S?

...

EARLI-ER,

NATSUO'S EX CAME TO HIS APART-MENT.

IT'S OKAY. GO ON.

...

SO,

YOU GOT MAD AND STORMED OUT?

MAD?

WELL, I DEFINITELY WASN'T *HAPPY.*

BUT IT'S NOT JUST THAT.

!

NATSUO-KUN HAD A GIRL-FRIEND BEFORE YOU?

YEAH. HE KEPT IT A SECRET BECAUSE IT WAS COM-PLICATED,

BUT THEY WERE FORCED TO BREAK UP SOON AFTER THEY STARTED DATING.

I HAD NO IDEA ...

GUILTY?

SORT OF.

I THINK...

...I FELT GUILTY.

I JUST...

CAN'T FIND IT IN ME TO TELL HER.

AND HIS EX DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE DATING.

NATSUO'S EX BROKE UP WITH HIM AND LEFT SO THAT THE SITUATION WOULDN'T DRAG ON FOREVER,

BUT I KNEW THAT SHE STILL LOVED HIM.

AND I'M ALSO WORRIED THAT HE MIGHT START HAVING FEELINGS FOR HER AGAIN.

SO, THERE'S THAT,

IT'S ALL JUST A BIG MESS AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

EVEN SO, I CHOSE NOT TO TELL HIM AND KIND OF ENDED UP TAKING HIM FROM UNDER HER NOSE.

HUG #11

うう

SORRY.

EVEN IF I TELL YOU ALL OF THIS,

I'M SURE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY, HUH?

RUI-RUI.

THANKS FOR TELLING ME.

IT'S OKAY.

IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

EVERYONE WANTS TO BE HAPPY.

NO ONE WANTS TO HURT OTHERS.

NA-

NATSUO-KUN...



YOU'RE UP.

YEAH. GOOD MORN-ING.

OH...

HINA-NEE...

MM...

LAST NIGHT,

I GOT DRUNK AND CAME OVER, DIDN'T I?

UM... SORRY.

I'M REALLY SORRY.

I DIDN'T DO OR SAY ANYTHING WEIRD, DID I?

SORRY, I DON'T REMEM-BER A THING.

UHH...

YEAH.

YOU FELL ASLEEP AS SOON AS YOU GOT HERE.

NO.

NOT REALLY.

I LOVE YOU...

...

I AAALWAYS LOVED YOU.

...IN A WHILE.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD ALCOHOL ...

DID YOU HAVE FUN?

IT MUST'VE BEEN SOME WELCOMING PARTY IF YOU GOT THAT HAM-MERED.

ほDHEW?...

I SEE ...

BUT ...

THINGS HAVEN'T BEEN GOING SO WELL.

IT WASN'T SOME KIND OF SPIRITUAL THING,

I JUST THOUGHT I'D HOLD OFF ON DRINKING UNTIL I COULD GET A JOB AND STAND ON MY OWN TWO FEET AGAIN.

HUH?

I HAVEN'T HAD ANY-THING TO DRINK AT ALL SINCE I MOVED BACK.

I'VE BEEN GETTING USED TO MY NEW JOB,

BUT I STILL NEED BACKUP FROM THE SENIOR STAFF ALL THE TIME.

I ONLY DRANK YESTERDAY BECAUSE MY COWORKERS INSISTED.

I GUESS IT WENT RIGHT TO MY HEAD SINCE IT'S BEEN SO LONG.

SHE STOPPED DRINKING EVEN THOUGH SHE LOVES IT THAT MUCH...

GOD.

I FEEL SO PATHETIC.

OH.

I SEE

...

I'M SOR-RY...

YOU'VE GOT A BIG SISTER LIKE ME.

I TOLD YOU TO RELY ON ME,

BUT I CAN BARELY HANDLE MYSELF, AND I EVEN ENDED UP CAUSING YOU TROUBLE.

I'M JUST HOPE-LESS.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, HINA-NEE.

NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAP-PENED...

...IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME.

"WE HAVE TO CARRY OUR DECISIONS WITH US FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES."

SHE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT...

"THE VALUE OF MONEY IN LIFE," HUH?

Amateur Performance Plot

I SEE.

ISUMI CAFETERIA

CAN YOU GET ME THE FIRST DRAFT BY THE START OF NEXT WEEK?

SURE.

THEN I'LL GET STARTED ON A SCRIPT.

IT'S A NEAT THEME.

I-I'LL DO MY BEST.

NEXT WEEK ?!

WELL, WE ALREADY HAVE A DATE SET FOR THE SHOW.

WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT A SCHED-ULE FOR PRAC-TICE.

I THINK EVERYONE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DOING IT. WHY NOT?

BUT IT SAYS SHE READ MY MESSAGES.

I GUESS SHE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO TALK TO ME.

LONG TIME NO SEE, NATSUO-KUN!

Let me know if that doesn't work.

I wanna talk
When can we meet up?

Cancel

I TRIED CALLING AND TEXTING HER...

...BUT SHE WON'T ANSWER.

MOMO ...?

CHAPTER 146: BALANCE CRUMBLES

MOMO
...

TAK TAK
たたっ

YOU SEEM ...

A LITTLE MORE MATURE, THOUGH.

WELL, IT'S ONLY BEEN LIKE A MONTH...

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!

HOW ARE YOU?

BUT ...

WHAT'S UP? YOU COULD'VE CALLED ME IF YOU NEEDED SOMETHING.

HEH, HEH, HEH. I'M A COLLEGE GIRL NOW, AFTER ALL! ♪

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT!

I WANNA HEAR HOW THINGS ARE GOING AT SCHOOL!

HEY! WHY DON'T WE GET COFFEE?

I WAS IN THE AREA AND THOUGHT I MIGHT RUN INTO YOU, SO I SWUNG BY.

AND LUCKY ME, HERE YOU ARE!

IS THAT RIGHT?

I GUESS THIS IS WHAT COLLEGE IS LIKE.

I WAS SUR-PRISED, TOO.

WOW ...

YOUR SCHOOL HAS A PRETTY TRENDY CAFÉ.

IS MED SCHOOL BUSY?

HOW ARE THINGS WITH YOU?

IT'S NOT TOO BAD RIGHT NOW.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

HUH?

HEH, HEH. YOU BOTH ASKED ME THE SAME THING.

I JOINED BECAUSE IT SEEMED INTERESTING, BUT THEY ASKED ME TO WRITE A SCRIPT ALL OF A SUDDEN.

DRAMA ?!

NAH, THE DRAMA CLUB.

THE DEAD-LINE'S NEXT WEEK, SO IT'S BEEN KINDA HECTIC.

WOW!

BUT I'M PRETTY BUSY WITH CLUB.

CLASS ISN'T THAT BAD,

I'M KINDA KEEPING MYSELF BUSY.

HUH. DID YOU JOIN A LITER-ATURE CLUB?

I HEAR BARUSU HAS SETTLED INTO THE PRESIDENT ROLE.

OH! APPARENTLY FOUR FRESHMEN JOINED THIS YEAR.

I WONDER HOW THEY'RE DOING.

YEAH.

I BET THE GUYS IN THE LITERATURE CLUB WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THEY HEARD.

DOESN'T IT KINDA ...

...MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE HAVING A FLING?

BUT Y'KNOW,

SLIP

WHEN THINGS ARE GOING SO WELL,

WHOA!

OH, YEAH. HOW'S OSAKA?

HE'S GREAT.

WE'RE VERY MUCH IN LOVE.

C'MON.

YOU DON'T LOOK TOO OPPOSED TO THE IDEA.

THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT SO HOT.

♡ BOING

HEY... WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MOMO?

HUH ?!

WE'RE BOTH SEEING SOMEONE RIGHT NOW.

キュ PIN

ちょ CH

BUT YOU'RE BLUSHING EAR TO EAR.

SEE?

YOUR MOUTH SAYS NO,

RUI TOLD YOU?

!

UH-HUH.

H-HOWWY ...

STRR

IS EXACTLY WHAT GAVE ME THE WRONG IDEA, UNDER-STAND?

THAT VAGUE ATTITUDE ...

AND I'M FINDING IT HARD TO FORGIVE YOU FOR MAKING RUI-RUI SAD!

LLR

...

RUI-RUI WAS REALLY WORRIED.

ALSO,

SHE SAID SHE FELT GUILTY.

SHE CALLED ME LAST NIGHT...

AND ASKED IF SHE COULD SPEND THE NIGHT.

SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO STAY AT YOUR PLACE, RIGHT?

GUILTY?

SHE TOLD ME YOU HAD A GIRL-FRIEND BEFORE HER...

...AND THAT FEELS LIKE SHE KINDA STOLE YOU FROM HER.

THAT'S NOT...

...

HEY, NATSUO-KUN.

I THINK THAT LOVERS CAN ONLY STAY TO-GETHER FOREVER ...

IF THEY'RE TRULY DETERMINED TO.

SHE SAID SHE WAS WORRIED YOU MIGHT GET BACK TOGETHER WITH YOUR EX...

...IF YOU FOUND OUT HOW SHE FELT.

WHETHER OR NOT RUI-RUI COMES BACK...

...IS UP TO YOU.

Amateur Performance Fi

UHH... HOW MANY BOTTLES OF BALSAMIC VINEGAR DO WE HAVE AGAIN?

OH, I'LL GO CHECK THE STORAGE. WE NEED MORE GRAND MARNIER, TOO.

カリ チャ♪ CLACK

HUH ?

WANT ME TO GET HER? SHE SHOULD BE OFF NOW.

YES, PLEASE!

DID YOU COME TO PICK HER UP?

YEAH.

AREN'T YOU RUI-CHAN'S BOY-FRIEND?

OH, YES.

SORRY FOR LOITERING HERE.

カリ CHACK チャ

AHH, TO BE IN LOVE.

DON'T GOBBLE HER UP ON THE WAY HOME, MR. WOLF.

OH...

OKAY.

SOR-RY...

SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S STAYING TO PRACTICE THE MAIN MENU.

SHE SAID SHE WON'T BE OFF FOR A WHILE.

NEXT TIME...

SORRY TO MAKE YOU DO THAT.

ハロータウン!!

I DON'T...

...WANT TO SEE HIM RIGHT NOW.

HE LOOKED PRETTY BUMMED.

YOU SURE THAT WAS OKAY?

...

TACHIBANA-SAN, YOUR BOY-FRIEND'S HERE AGAIN.

TACHIBANA-SAN ALREADY LEFT.

CHACK カチャ

HOW DO YOU LIKE LIVING ON YOUR OWN?

THAT'S ALL?

YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART, SON.

THAT REMINDS ME. I HEAR HINA GOT DRUNK AND DROPPED BY YOUR APARTMENT THE OTHER DAY. SORRY, NATSUO-KUN.

NOT REALLY.

IT SUCKS THAT I DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO WAKE ME UP IF I OVERSLEEP, THOUGH.

DO YOU GET LONELY?

IT'S OKAY.

BUT YOU SHOULD PROBABLY WATCH HOW MUCH YOU DRINK.

I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THAT.

OH ...

I SWEAR,

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF NATSUO-KUN DIDN'T LIVE IN THE AREA?

CAN WE TALK?

I DON'T THINK ...

...WE SHOULD DO THIS AT HOME.

RUI!

RUI!

DASH!!

HON-ESTLY,

I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE RIGHT NOW.

RUI!

BUT ...

YOU WON'T TALK TO ME UNLESS I DO THIS.

SORRY, I CAN'T.

ポタ…
THUD

GLOOM
Y'ようよ…

YOU LOOK EVEN MORE DEPRESSED THAN BEFORE.

SOMEHOW,

NOBE

DON'T TELL ME YOU GUYS BROKE UP!

NO, WE DIDN'T.

BUT ...

...I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HIS FACE.

I...

...SAW NATSUO YESTER-DAY.

NOW THAT NATSUO KNOWS HOW HIS EX FEELS...

...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO IF HE CHANGES, EVEN A LITTLE.

I'M SCARED I'LL SEE SOMETHING IN WHAT HE SAYS OR HOW HE ACTS.

WHY WOULD YOU SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT?

WELL, IT'S TRUE!

I KEEP AVOIDING HIM.

EVEN THOUGH HE'S BEEN COMING TO THE RESTAU-RANT EVERY DAY,

SO,

IF HE GOES BACK TO LOOKING ...

...HOW HE DID WHEN HE LOVED HINA-NEE, I...

I MEAN,

NATSUO-KUN HAS A DEAD-LINE FOR A SCRIPT THIS WEEK.

WHAT?

HE'S BEEN VISITING YOU AT WORK EVERY DAY?

YEAH.

WHY?

...!

RUI-CHAN STILL LOOKS DOWN.

BUT STILL ...

WELL, IT'S NOT GETTING IN THE WAY OF WORK, AT LEAST.

tempo felice

SHE SAID BECAUSE SHE HURT HIM PRETTY BADLY.

I TRIED ASKING HER WHAT'S UP DURING BREAK.

SHE SAID SHE AND HER BOYFRIEND MIGHT BREAK UP.

WHAT?! WHY?!

SPLUTTER SPLUTTER SPLUTTER

CREAK

YOU'RE STILL HERE, RUI?

IT'S SUPPOSED TO STORM TONIGHT, SO HURRY ON HOME, OKAY?

RUI…

NAT-SUO…

I'M SOR-RY...

I'M SORRY, NATSUO ...

RUI...

RUI...

LET'S TELL HINA-NEE...

...ABOUT US.

CHAPTER 147: FOR THE FUTURE

THAT NIGHT ...

BUT YOU'RE THE ONE LIVING WITH HER,

TO BE HONEST, I THOUGHT ABOUT TELLING HER.

SO I WANTED TO GET YOUR PERMISSION BEFORE I SAID ANY-THING.

...!

I DON'T KNOW IF HINA-NEE REALLY MEANT...

EVERY-THING SHE SAID WHEN SHE WAS DRUNK.

BUT IF SHE DID,

THEN I THINK WE'LL ONLY HURT EACH OTHER MORE IF WE KEEP BOTTLING EVERYTHING UP.

I WANT TO BE HONEST AND TELL HINA-NEE...

...THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU, AND THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO CONFESSED.

THAT WAY,

SO...

YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME HAVING A CHANGE OF HEART, RIGHT?

SHIT

YEAH ...!

NAT-SUO!

WHAT'S WRONG ?!

ARE YOU OKAY ??!

SLUMP

GREAT ...

...

スリ…ズ SLIP

HE'S BREATHING REALLY HEAVY.

HE MIGHT HAVE A FEVER...

NATSUO WAS WAITING FOR ME OUTSIDE ALL THIS TIME...

HUH ?!

WHAT HAP-PENED ?!

カチャッ CLACK

I'LL TAKE HIM HOME FOR NOW.

I DON'T THINK HE HAS HIS INSURANCE CARD ON HIM.

WANNA TAKE HIM TO THE HOSPI-TAL?

THAT'S NO GOOD. I'LL CALL A TAXI.

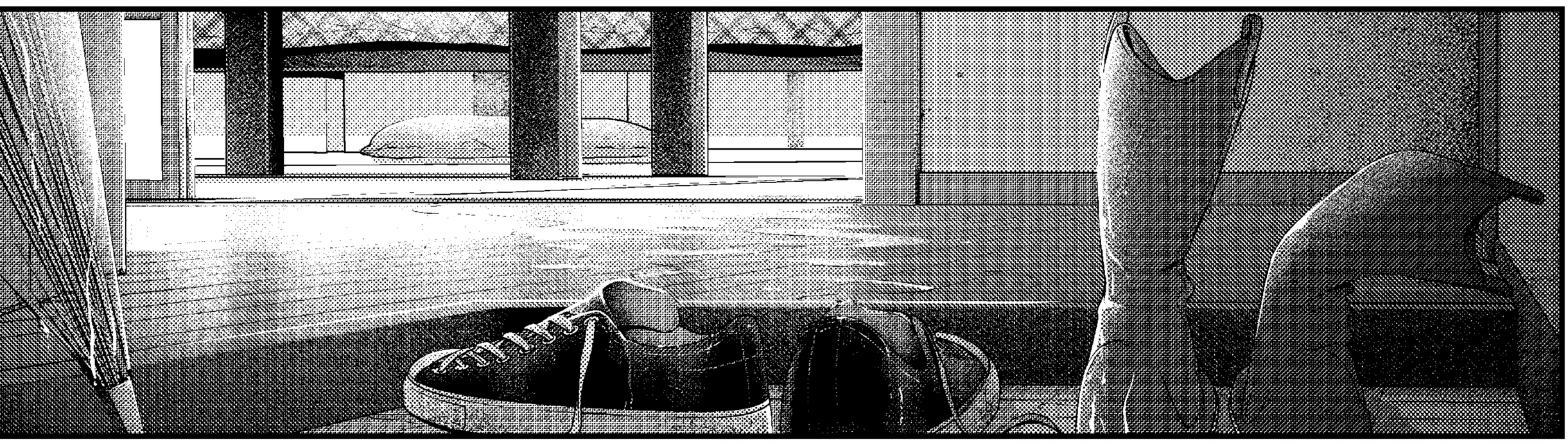
THE FRONT OF MEIJI UNIVER-SITY STATION, PLEASE.

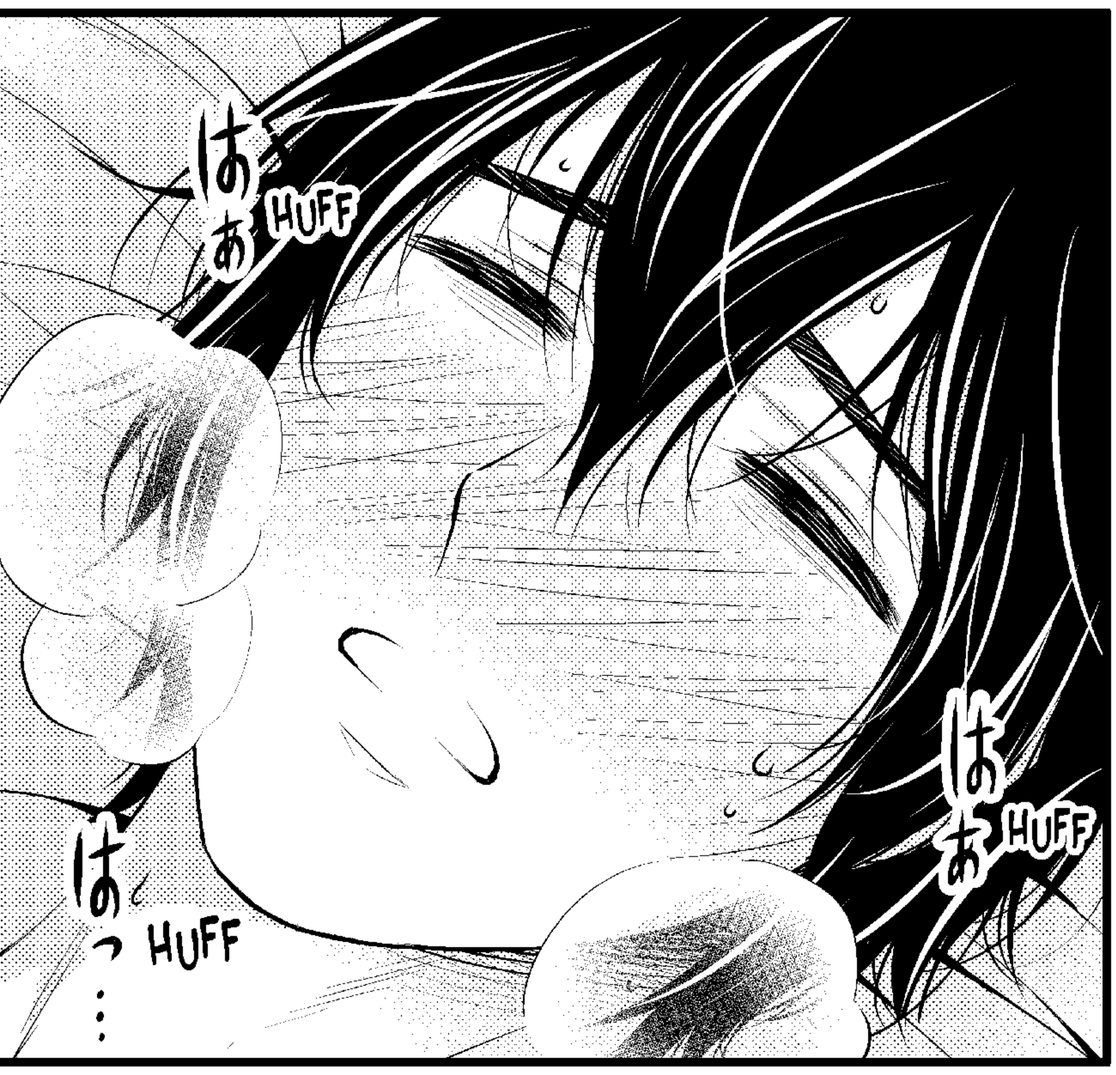
...

WHERE TO?

UM ...

#HFSPSPSP









I'M SO SORRY, NATSUO.

I LOVE YOU ...!

I WENT TO RUI'S WORK, THEN...

OH!

YOU'RE UP.

...

HUH?

WHERE AM I?

...

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

カチ CHIK

RUI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I TOOK THE DAY OFF WORK.

IT'S MY FAULT YOU COLLAPSED. I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE YOU ALL ALONE.

DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

YOU PASSED OUT AT THE RESTAURANT.

YOU WERE SOAKING WET WHEN I FOUND YOU. YOU MUST'VE BEEN WAITING SINCE BEFORE THE RAIN STARTED, RIGHT? WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING SO STUPID?

I MADE SOME RICE PORRIDGE. CAN YOU EAT?

WELL... I DIDN'T KNOW WHEN YOU WERE GETTING OFF.

I REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, SO, Y'KNOW ...

...BUT NO MORE DUMB STUNTS LIKE THAT, OKAY?!

WHAT IF YOU GOT PNEUMO-NIA?!

O-OKAY, SORRY...

W-

WELL,

I APPRE-CIATE THE THOUGHT...

YOUR FACE IS STILL RED.

MMM...

MY HEAD HURTS.

HOW DO YOU FEEL?

YOU WERE PRETTY FEVERISH LAST NIGHT.

STAY IN BED TODAY.

YEAH, YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER.

LET ME CHECK.

HERE'S SOME POR-RIDGE.

NO BUTS. YOU HAVE TO EAT.

YOU DIDN'T EAT ANYTHING LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?

I'M NOT REALLY HUNGRY...

TAP

IT SMELLS GREAT...

I PUT EGGS AND BONITO FLAKES IN IT TO MAKE IT EASY ON YOUR STOMACH.

YUM.

THAT'LL BE 10,000 YEN*.

!

OR A KISS.

I'LL PAY WITH A KISS, PLEASE.

TOMOR-ROW...

*APPROX. 100 USD.

YOU KEPT VISITING ME AT WORK EVEN THOUGH THE DEADLINE FOR YOUR SCRIPT'S COMING UP, RIGHT?

ERG...

I DIDN'T TAKE THE DAY OFF JUST SO I COULD TAKE CARE OF YOU.

HUH?

THAT'S WHY,

I'LL WRITE IT FOR YOU!

WAIT... IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS WRITING THE SCRIPT HALF-HEARTEDLY.

I WAS JUST MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOU...

I KNOW.

KEH KEH KEH

ゴボッ KOF

I WAS SHOCKED WHEN MOMO TOLD ME.

IT MADE SENSE IN MY HEAD, SO WHATEVER.

THAT'S KINDA PUSHY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THAT'S WHY?" HOW DID YOU COME TO THAT CONCLUSION?

?!

I'LL SORT EVERYTHING OUT AND WRITE IT DOWN.

IF YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND,

THAT WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE OF YOU VOLUN-TEERING FOR THE JOB.

I DON'T MEAN THAT I'LL WRITE MY OWN IDEAS.

RUIII!

UH-UH. I DON'T WANT TO CATCH YOUR COLD.

COLDS SUCK!

I THINK I HAVE THE WRITING ABILITY ...

DON'T FORGET, I'VE WON AN AWARD, TOO.

EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, YOU DID FOR ME.

NOW IT'S MY TURN TO DO SOME-THING FOR YOU.

JUST FALL ASLEEP IF IT GETS TOO TOUGH.

WE CAN DO IT IN CHUNKS.

ALL DONE!

STAY IN BED FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, OKAY?

I'M GONNA TAKE THIS TO THE CLUB THEN GO TO WORK.

SURE, THANKS.

SORRY I KEPT WAKING YOU UP EVEN THOUGH YOU MUST FEEL AWFUL.

IT'S FINE.

THANKS, RUI...

ふよ WAFT

ふよ WAFT

バタン THUD

SEE YA.

WANT ME TO DRAW YOU A MAP?

はぐ NOM

ぷるん FWOO

IT'S FINE, I'LL JUST ASK THE RECEP-TION DESK.

EXCUSE ME...

カチャ CHA CK

THAT'S RIGHT.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO JOIN?

UM... IS THIS THE CLUB ROOM FOR FORESTER?

HM?

OHH! NAT-KUN'S SCRIPT!

I CAME TO DELIVER NATSUO FUJII'S SCRIPT.

OH, NO...

WHAT?! OH, NO!

ARE YOU A CLASS-MATE OF HIS?

NO...

HE HAS A FEVER AND COULDN'T COME.

WAIT, WHY DIDN'T HE BRING IT HIMSELF?

NAT-KUN...

NAT-KUN REALLY ISN'T A VIRGIN?!

HUH?!

HIS...

...GIRL...

...FRIEND.

I'M,

UM...

THANK YOU, BUT I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.

HEY, WHY DON'T YOU STAY FOR TEA?

...

NOTHING! DON'T MIND HER!

BROTH?

WHAT?

MFF MRFIN. (IT'S NOTHING.)

I WAS SURE HE WAS, SO I HAD THE GUYS TAKE HIM TO THE BROTH—

FWAP

HEY, MOM. YOU'RE HOME EARLY.

NO OVER-TIME TODAY?

WEL-COME HOME.

I'M HOME!

IS RUI STAYING OUT AGAIN?

I SEE.

I GOT TO DO SOME GOOD SHOPPING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.

I CAME STRAIGHT HOME TODAY.

NOPE.

HUH...

THEY MUST BE CLOSE.

WHAT ABOUT YOU? HAVE YOU MADE ANY FRIENDS AT WORK?

SHE SAID IT WAS A FRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL THAT TIME, SO MAYBE IT'S THE SAME GIRL.

DIDN'T SHE STAY AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE THE OTHER NIGHT, TOO?

SHE SHOULD BE HOME TONIGHT.

I HAVE MY HANDS FULL DEALING WITH CUSTOMERS.

HA, HA.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

ANY HANDSOME MEN?

BUT MY COWORKERS ARE ALL NICE PEOPLE.

I DUNNO ABOUT FRIENDS,

'KAY!

YES! IT'S ON THE SECOND SHELF TO THE RIGHT.

HEY, MOM!

DO WE HAVE ANY MAKEUP REMOVER?

HM?

SOMETHING FELL...

SECOND SHELF...

カラ ッ
CLACK

DO YOU MIND IF I TELL HINA-NEE?

ALL RIGHT.

...

IF I WAS HER...

...I WOULDN'T WANT TO HEAR IT FROM YOU.

I SHOULD BE THE ONE WHO TELLS HER.

BUT... IT WAS MY IDEA.

HUH ?

WE DON'T WANT TO HURT HINA-NEE.

ギシ・・・ CREAK

KNOCK
コン
KNOCK
コン

COME IN.

カチャ
CHA
K

HINA-NEE.

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

ME, TOO.

HUH ...?

THIS ...

...IS YOUR HAIRPIN, ISN'T IT?

CHAPTER 148: RITUAL OF DETERMINATION

UM...

YEAH, WHY?

ISN'T THIS A GIRL'S?

OH, THAT?!

MY NEIGHBOR DROPPED IT WHEN SHE CAME OVER TO SAY HI!

I SEE ...

...

...

SORRY I TOOK IT.

HERE.

THAT'S ALL.

I JUST FOUND IT IN THE BATH-ROOM AND THOUGHT IT WAS CUTE.

YEAH, ABOUT THAT.

I WANTED TO TELL YOU SOME-THING...

UM...

UM...

CAN I CHOOSE ...

...NOT TO HEAR IT?

YOU CAN.

BUT ...

...I WANT YOU TO.

NOD

...

IT'S ABOUT...

ME AND NAT-SUO.

MAKI!

IT'S FINE. DO YOU USUALLY GET OFF WORK AROUND THIS TIME?

SORRY I'M LATE.

HEY, THERE.

IT DEPENDS ON THE DAY, I GUESS.

BIG ECHO
Karaoke Entertainment

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GO TO KARAOKE, ANYWAY?

SO,

I'm waiting for that time ~

PUNK ROCK? REALLY?

YOUR SONG CHOICE IS GIVING AWAY HOW YOU FEEL.

We're all forsaken
Driving me insane

Just tell me
how do I run from here

I KNEW THAT RUI LOVED NATSUO-KUN,

AND I GUESS A LOT HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM WHILE I WAS GONE, SO IT IS WHAT IT IS.

JUST BECAUSE THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT.

HE ISN'T THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D MOVE RIGHT ON TO THE NEXT GIRL ...

I KNOW YOU GUYS BROKE UP, BUT GO-ING AFTER YOUR LITTLE SISTER?

STILL,

ISN'T THAT KINDA FICKLE? OR IS HE JUST YOUNG?

AGE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

THE SONGS YOU'RE PICKING SURE MAKE IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE NOT OVER HIM.

HUH?

"IT IS WHAT IT IS,"

LYRICS: MIWA YOSHIDA / MUSIC: MASATO NAKAMURA

HEY... TELL ME WHY,

...

EVEN THOUGH I LOVE YOU SO MUCH,

I CHOSE THIS SONG ...

TO HELP ME LET GO OF MY FEELINGS.

WHY WON'T THE WORDS COME OUT?

AND ALL I WANT IS TO TELL YOU HOW I FEEL,

EVEN IF THE DAY WE MET SLOWLY BECOMES A DISTANT MEMORY

I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

I'LL ALWAYS LOVE...

WHY WON'T THE TEARS STOP?

TELL ME WHY.

HEY, YOOU.

WHY WON'T THE TEARS STOP ...

SORRY.

YOU ENDED UP TELLING HER EVERY-THING YOURSELF.

I SEE ...

SHE ASKED WHEN WE STARTED GOING OUT, SO I GAVE HER THE GIST OF EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED.

I SEE ...

NOTHING ABOUT THE FACT THAT WE'RE DATING.

IT'S FINE.

I WANTED TO.

WHAT DID HINA-NEE SAY?

I DON'T REGRET TELLING HER.

RUI?

ARE YOU CRY-ING?

WASN'T MAD AT ME AT ALL.

HINA-NEE...

SHE DIDN'T EVEN LOOK SAD.

...

YOU KNOW,

I KNOW EXACTLY ...

BUT NOW THAT I HAVE,

I DON'T, BUT...

THERE WERE SO MANY FEELINGS I NEVER EXPERI-ENCED...

...HOW HINA-NEE FEELS RIGHT NOW.

...UNTIL I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.

SORRY
...

...

HEY, LOVER BOY!

PSHH

KINA-SHI-SEM-PAI!

YEAH, I HAVE SECOND PERIOD OPEN.

CALL ME MAO.

OKAY... MAO-SAN.

DON'T HAVE CLASS?

HUH ?

EVERYONE IN THE CLUB'S TALKING ABOUT YOU, NAT-KUN.

THEY CAN'T GET OVER HOW CUTE YOUR GIRL-FRIEND IS.

EVERY-ONE WAS PRETTY ENVIOUS.

ESPE-CIALLY THE GUYS.

BUT Y'KNOW,

PREPARE TO GET BOMBARDED WITH QUESTIONS NEXT TIME YOU COME TO CLUB.

HOW YOU MET, WHEN WAS YOUR FIRST KISS, ETC....

UGH ...

HEY ...

I DIDN'T THINK YOU ACTUALLY HAD A GIRL-FRIEND.

I WAS SURE YOU WERE MAKING HER UP.

AH!

ER...

HUH ?!

JUUUST KIDDING! NYAAAHH!

...KINDA JEALOUS, TOO.

I WAS...

YOU SHOULD COME FOR BASIC TRAINING TODAY, SINCE YOU HAVEN'T YET.

OH, YEAH. YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH DONE WITH THE SCRIPT, RIGHT?

MAN, SHE NEVER STOPS TOYING WITH PEOPLE...

OH...

SURE!

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

THE CONTENTS OF A SUBJECT AND THE SKILLFUL USAGE

1, 2, 3...

DO NON-ACTORS USUALLY DO THIS KIND OF PRACTICE?

YEAH. THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE YOU MIGHT HAVE TO GO OUT ON STAGE IF SOME-THING GOES WRONG.

ALL RIGHT. PAIR UP AND STRETCH.

CLAP CLAP

HUH ?!

THEN I MIGHT HAVE TO ACT, TOO?!

YOU'RE NOT MOVING AT ALL!

YOU'RE SO STIFF, NAT-KUN!

I'VE NEVER BEEN VERY FLEXIBLE ...

1

2

3

4

ALRIGHTY! LET'S GET YOU LIMBERED UP BY SHOW NIGHT!

OW, OW, OW!

OH, YOU'RE FIIINE.

GUH!

NO, IT HURTS ...

AND HER CHEST IS...!

ムギュ MUSH

ムギュ MUSH

I CAN'T GET UP RIGHT NOW FOR UM... VARIOUS REASONS.

I...

NO,

HUH?

I'M NOT PUSHING ANYMORE, Y'KNOW.

'KAY! MY TURN!

FAAAA!

M!!!!

REEEE!

DOOOO!

PUSH

GOOD!

DOOOO!

PUSH

SOOOO!

LAAAA!

SING FROM YOUR STOMACH.

FOCUS ON YOUR DIA-PHRAGM.

TIIII!

BREATHE DEEPER!

YOUR VOICE IS TOO SOFT.

TIGHTEN YOUR BUTT MORE, TOO!

ÉTUDE
(IMPROV)

KNOCK IT OFF, RYU.

...!

THAT'S IT!

TRY TO PINCH MY FINGER BETWEEN YOUR CHEEKS.

I'M PRETTY WIPED ...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S CALL IT A DAY.

FUJII, STICK AROUND FOR THE PRODUCTION MEETING, PLEASE.

A TRAIN-ING CAMP ...

ALL RIGHT, DIS-MISSED!

SO, ABOUT GOLDEN WEEK*.

WE'RE GOING TO HOST A TRAINING CAMP TO GET READY FOR THE AMATEUR PERFORMANCE. IT'LL GO FOR THREE DAYS AND TWO NIGHTS.

WE PLAN TO DISTRIBUTE THE ROLES THERE, AS WELL.

IF ANYONE CAN'T MAKE IT, LET US KNOW.

OH.

OKAY!

THE CONTENTS OF A SUBJECT AND THE SKILLFUL USAGE

*A WEEK WHEN SEVERAL JAPANESE HOLIDAYS ARE CELEBRATED, SPANNING THE END OF APRIL TO THE BEGINNING OF MAY.

I'M GONNA NEED MORE THAN A BACK-PACK TO FIT TWO DAYS' WORTH OF CLOTHES AND SCRIPTWRIT-ING STUFF.

I DIDN'T BRING A DUFFLE BAG WITH ME.

MAN ...

OH, WELL. GUESS I'LL HAVE TO SWING BY HOME.

CHIK CHIK カリ カリ チャ チャ

カニャ KER CHAK ニ

THOUGH I PROBABLY ...

...SHOULDN'T SEE HER RIGHT NOW.

I'M HOME!

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE'S HOME.

PERFECT. I'LL JUST GRAB MY BAG...

ピンポーン

...AND LEA-

I'M HOME!

WAIT, THAT VOICE ...

R-

RUI?

HUH? YOU'RE HERE, NATSUO?

YEAH.

I CAME TO GET A BAG FOR A TRAINING CAM-

RUI!

CHAPTER 149: THE OUTCOME OF RESOLVE

WELL...

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I HAD A...

CHANGE OF HEART.

Y-

YOU...

...CUT YOUR HAIR.

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GROW IT OUT BEFORE.

DOES IT LOOK WEIRD?

NO, NOT AT ALL!

I WAS JUST SURPRISED.

心境の変化

CHANGE OF HEART

- Heartbreak
- Change of seasons
- Convenience
- Start of a new love
- Work trouble
- Matching one's age
- Stress relief

WHEN SHE SAYS "CHANGE OF HEART,"

THERE ARE SEVEN MAJOR REASONS WHY GIRLS CHOP OFF THEIR HAIR.

THIS REMINDS ME OF AN ARTICLE I READ.

...!

RUI HAD TO BE PRETTY STRESSED OUT.

IT'S TRUE THAT A LOT HAS HAP-PENED LATELY.

DON'T TELL ME SHE'S FED UP WITH ME!

I'M JUST TIRED OF IT.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT NATSUO ANYMORE.

AND NOW ...

DON'T THESE TWO...

Heartbreak
Change of seasons
Convenience
Start of a new love
Work trouble
Matching one's age
Stress relief

...FALL RIGHT INTO THAT CATEGORY?!

TO BE HONEST, THE REASON I STARTED GROWING MY HAIR WAS BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE MORE LIKE HINA-NEE.

THE HINA-NEE YOU COULDN'T FORGET...

WHY ARE YOU FREAKING OUT?

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

ポロ

P-

PLEASE DON'T LEAVE MEEE!

DID YOU LIKE ME BETTER WITH LONG HAIR?

RUI...

BUT FROM NOW ON, I WANT TO START FRESH...

OH.

OKAY.

かぁ

BLUSH

LONG OR SHORT, YOU'RE CUTE JUST THE WAY YOU ARE!

...AND START SEEING EACH OTHER WITH A NEW MINDSET.

WOW!

THE MAIN COURSE LOOKS GREAT, TOO!

SIGN: CAFÉ & BAR / L'AMANT

BUT I DUNNO ABOUT A YOUNG GIRL LIKE YOU TREATING YOURSELF TO A FULL-COURSE MEAL.

BEING SINGLE'S THE HOT THING THESE DAYS,

OH, IT'S FINE. I GOT MY FIRST PAYCHECK SINCE SWITCHING JOBS TODAY.

TIME TO DIG IN!

*FRENCH SPECIAL: 5,000 YEN.

THE FEELINGS I'D KEPT PLANTED INSIDE ME FOR SO LONG...

...DIDN'T BEAR FRUIT.

SO I THOUGHT, WHAT BETTER CHANCE TO SPOIL MYSELF?

BESIDES, MY CO-WORKERS ARE ALL WORKING LATE TONIGHT,

OH, MY. DID SOME-THING HAP-PEN?

TEE-HEE

YOU GOT THAT IDEA FROM A PORN MAG?

TALK ABOUT GULLIBLE.

I THOUGHT HE MIGHT'VE STILL HAD FEELINGS FOR ME, Y'KNOW?

WHEN I FOUND A PORN MAG ABOUT TEACHERS IN NATSUO-KUN'S ROOM DURING NEW YEAR'S,

...

DID YOU HEAR ...

...ABOUT NATSUO-CHAN AND RUI-CHAN?

OH, STOP!

YOU MUST BE PRETTY POPULAR NOW THAT YOU GO TO TOKYO U, RIGHT?

GRAB

I'M VERY SORRY ABOUT THAT.

I PROMISE TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY AND MAKE YOU HAPPY, MA'AM!

REALLY?! I GOT MY HOPES UP BECAUSE OF THAT!

CURSE YOU, FUMIYA-KUN!

ACTUALLY, I ASKED HIM TO HANG ONTO THAT MAGAZINE FOR ME.

HERE, NOTHING SOOTHES THE SOUL LIKE A GOOD DRINK.

THAT'S GOOD. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMEN ARE THE ONES WHO LOOK TO THE FUTURE.

SLIDE

I'LL FOCUS ON WORK FOR NOW.

I THINK I'M DONE WITH LOVE FOR A WHILE.

BUT ALL THE EVENT CLUBS ONLY SCOUT PEOPLE!

I THOUGHT IT'D BE SMOOTH SAILING ONCE I GOT INTO TOKYO U!

THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT!

DON'T GIVE UP! YOUR TIME WILL COME!

IF YOU MAKE ANY FUNNY MOVES, I'LL DO EVERY-THING IN MY POWER TO STOP YOU.

I FEEL LIKE DRINKING, SO JOIN ME.

OH, IT'S FINE TO DRINK WHEN YOU COME HERE.

THAT'S, UHH, REAS-SURING.

I GOT REALLY DRUNK AND SCREWED UP THE OTHER DAY...

OH!

I CAN'T FALL OFF THE WAGON!

I GUESS I CAN LET YOU TREAT ME TO ONE DRINK.

SO I CAN GO BACK TO BEING MY USUAL SELF.

I WANT TO HURRY AND FOR-GET,

WELL, ALL RIGHT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORGET EVERY-THING.

YOU HAVE GOOD MEMORIES TOGETHER TOO, DON'T YOU?

AND AN-OTHER THING,

YOU'RE PAYING FOR MY DRINKS, TOO, GIRL.

WHO SAID I WAS TREATING YOU?

REALLY ?!

CALL IT MY COUN-SELING FEE.

YEAH
...

IF SHE DOESN'T FORGET?

WON'T IT JUST HURT HINA-SAN MORE...

I MEAN WHEN YOU SAID IT'S OKAY TO REMEMBER SOME THINGS.

NO...

UM...

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

IT'S A SPECIAL OCCA-SION.

IF SHE ISN'T GOING TO DRINK NOW, THEN WHEN?

IF YOU TRY TO FORCE YOURSELF TO MOVE ON, IT'LL ONLY CAUSE YOU GRIEF.

WHETHER IT'S LOVE OR HATE.

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU FEEL.

NATSUO...

...KUN.

WHAT'S THE HARM...

...IN HOLDING ONTO THOSE FEELINGS OF LOVE?

SIGN: BUS STATION SHINJUKU

バス下新宿

NoWoMan

バス下新宿

YOU'RE RIGHT.

HEY! THERE'S MT. FUJI!

YEAH, TELL US ABOUT YOUR CUTE GIRLFRIEND!

HOW 'BOUT YOU FILL US IN A LITTLE MORE?

BY. THE. WAY.

UGH...

IT FEELS LIKE WE GOT WAY CLOSER TO IT AFTER WE GOT OUT OF THAT TUNNEL, HUH?

I'M GETTING EXCITED. ♪

WE WANNA KNOW MORE!

I TOLD YOU GUYS, WE STARTED GOING OUT AFTER I CONFESSED TO HER DURING THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL IN OUR THIRD-YEAR.

YEAH, YOU CAN GUSH ABOUT HER TO US. WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

HOW THE HELL COULD I TELL THEM I LOST MY VIRGINITY TO HER AND THEN WE BECAME STEP-SIBLINGS?

HEY, GOT ANY PICTURES OF HER? SHOW US!

DON'T FORGET, WE KEPT THE WHOLE PINK SALON THING UNDER WRAPS.

GULP

I-IS IT REALLY THAT DIF-FERENT?

I'VE ONLY DONE IT WITH A CONDOM!

DON'T ASK ME!

YOU GUYS WANNA KNOW WHAT SEX IS LIKE, RIGHT? WITH AND WITHOUT A CONDOM?

I BET THE VIRGINS HERE ARE CURIOUS, TOO.

I APPRECIATE THAT, BUT YOU WERE THE ONES WHO...

WHOA!

SHE'S CUTE AS HELL! YOU LUCKY BASTARD!

Y'KNOW, NARA-SAN. THE REASON YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND IS BECAUSE YOU'RE SO OPEN ABOUT BEING A MASOCHIST.

I DON'T REALLY WANT A GIRL-FRIEND.

WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT ANAL.

ESPE-CIALLY NOT THE RECEIVING END...

IT CAN BE PRETTY PAINFUL THE FIRST TIME WITHOUT ANY LUBRI-CATION.

YOU GET USED TO IT, THOUGH.

SO, EVER DONE IT, FUJII?

DONE WHAT?

ANAL.

THUD

DON'T SAY THAT SO SERI-OUSLY!

DA KI!!

I WANT A DOMINA-TRIX!

DUM

IF YOU KEEP SHOUTING ABOUT VULGAR THINGS, THEN I'M GOING TO TOSS EACH OF YOU OUT OF THE WINDOW, ONE BY ONE.

ARE YOU GUYS FORGETTING THAT THERE ARE GIRLS ON THE BUS?

S-S-SORRY!

WHAT'S OUR ROOM NUMBER?

315.

IT'S A FOUR-PERSON ROOM.

THIS REMINDS ME OF GOING TO SEASIDE SCHOOL IN ELEMENTARY.

HERE AT LAST...

LAKE YAMA-NAKA'S FARTHER AWAY THAN I THOUGHT.

HEY, HEY.

TAP

I SHOULD SNAP THE SCENERY LATER TO SEND TO RUI.

IT WAS REALLY STUPID.

AWW, C'MON.

HUH?!

OH, UHH. NOTH-ING.

WHAT WERE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT ON THE BUS?

AFTER PUTTING YOUR BAGS IN YOUR ROOMS, MEET UP IN THE FIRST SEMINAR ROOM.

WE'RE GOING TO HOLD THE FINAL AUDITIONS.

I OVER-HEARD A LITTLE.

IT SOUNDED INTERESTING, SO I WAS CURIOUS.

DON'T TELL ME YOU ACTUALLY EXPECT TO GET THE UPPER HAND WITH THAT!

あはははは

OKAY.

THAT'S ENOUGH.

YOU SUSPECT ME?

AND WHY IS THAT?

adidas

WHOA...

IS THAT ALL OF THE FIRST-YEARS?

パチパチ CLAP

YOU WON'T CONVINCE ANYONE WITH CIRCUM-STANTIAL EVIDENCE.

OH, RIGHT. FUJII.

ざわざわ

YOU'RE OUR PLAY-WRIGHT, SO YOU HAVEN'T AUDITIONED FOR THE CAST YET, HAVE YOU?

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

IT'S ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE COAST LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?

L-LET ME...

TAKE A GUESS AT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING RIGHT NOW.

UHH ...

HE'S TAKING ROBOTIC TO A NEW LEVEL. IF HE WERE ANY STIFFER, HE'D BE MADE OUT OF POLYGONS.

TOT

AFTER ALL...

TOT

WHAT I WAS DOING THERE ...

IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

TOT

はHAはHA

あAHAはHAはHA

I GET THE IDEA.

OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH.

AND ANNOUNCE THE ROLES AFTER THAT.

THE PRO-DUCTION STAFF WILL MEET...

ALL RIGHT, TAKE A BREAK. WE'LL PICK UP AGAIN AT ONE!

BEHIND-THE-SCENES IT IS.

YUPPF

I'M THINKING OF GOING WITH MIYABI SERIZAWA FOR THE LEAD ROLE.

THOUGHTS?

SHE WAS THE BEST OF THE BUNCH.

I THINK SHE'D MAKE A GOOD FOUNDATION TO BUILD OFF OF.

I HEAR SHE USED TO ATTEND AN ACTING SCHOOL, TOO.

SHE WAS DEFINITELY A STEP ABOVE THE REST OF THE FIRST-YEARS.

HER INTRODUC-TION MADE IT CLEAR THAT SHE'S REALLY AMBITIOUS ABOUT DRAMA.

AS OUR PLAYWRIGHT, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

OH! UM...

I THINK SHE'S A GOOD PICK.

AND SHE WAS THE ONLY FIRST-YEAR WHO COULD HANDLE THE IMPROV PRACTICE.

HER VOICE CARRIES WELL WITHOUT HAVING TO RAISE IT,

AND LASTLY,

MIYABI SERIZAWA, AS THE HEROINE, RURIKO TAKAGI.

CLAP

CLAP

YES!

CLAP

CLAP

NANA INOSE, AS MYS-TERIOUS GIRL.

YES!

HIDETO KASAI, AS FRIEND, TAKA-SUGI.

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

WE'LL JUMP RIGHT INTO READING THE SCRIPT, SO GRAB A CHAIR.

LET'S ALL WORK TOGETHER TO PUT ON A GREAT SHOW.

THAT DOES IT FOR ROLES.

CREATING SOME-THING AS A TEAM...

...IS PRETTY FUN.

MAY I HAVE A MOMENT ?

WOW... THINGS ARE STEADILY COMING TOGETHER.

EVERYONE'S GIVING THEIR OPINION ON HOW TO MAKE THE PLAY BETTER.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I'M SERI-OUS!

THIS LINE HERE.

WHAT IS THE HEROINE FEELING? ANGER? SAD-NESS?

WHAT IS SHE THINKING ABOUT AS SHE RATTLES ON?

I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCRIPT.

O-OKAY. WHAT'S UP?

OH,

SURE.

ACTUAL-LY, SHE MIGHT BE THINKING ABOUT WHEN THE OWNER TRICKED HER...

SHE'S REMEM-BERING HER PAST HERE.

I GUESS SHE'S FEELING A LITTLE OF BOTH.

HUH ?!

GOOD QUES-TION.

THEN WHAT ABOUT WHEN SHE LAUGHS LOUDLY HERE?

UMM.

THAT'S ...

SERI-ZAWA-SAN.

ABOUT EARLIER,

SORRY I COULD ONLY GIVE YOU VAGUE ANSWERS.

YOU KINDA TOOK ME BY SUR-PRISE.

OH...

YOU ATE TOO MUCH, DUDE.

MAN, I'M STUFFED.

HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE BATH-ROOM IS?

IT'S IN THE BACK OF THE LOUNGE.

THANKS.

BAM

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT AND GET BACK TO YOU-

SORRY,

BUT I'M OUT.

DOME GIRL

HEY ...

I'LL TELL NARA-SAN.

FIND SOMEONE ELSE.

HANG ON! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

YOU TOOK THE ROLE!

WHY ARE YOU BACK-ING OUT NOW?

HUH ?

MY... ATTI-TUDE ?

AND HERE I THOUGHT ...

I CAN'T STAND ...

...YOUR ATTITUDE!

HUH ...?

TAP

...THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN ANYMORE.

...IF I JOINED THE CLUB...

HUH ?

MIYABI ?!

OH, MIYABI. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.

LET'S READ OUR LINE TOGE-

SORRY, I'M BACK-ING OUT OF THE ROLE.

WAIT!

CHAPTER 150: RASHNESS & REGRET

WASN'T THAT AWE-SOME?!

School Preserved Flowers"
Warabiyama Middle School – Appreciation of the Arts
"Theater Local Line: Trance"
Masako Ikuhara Seminar
"Stress-Free Child Rearing"

ME, TOO!

I FEEL LIKE DOING DRAMA NOW!

BUT DOES THE HIGH SCHOOL WE'RE SHOOTING FOR EVEN HAVE A DRAMA CLUB?

I DIDN'T EXPECT THE DOG FROM THE BEGINNING TO BE FORE-SHADOWING.

I WAS KINDA TURNED OFF WHEN I HEARD THIS YEAR'S ART APPRECIATION WAS A PLAY, BUT THAT WAS REALLY GOOD!

IT WAS GREAT!

I GOT GOOSE-BUMPS DURING THE LAST SCENE!

BETWEEN THE FIVE OF US!

IF IT DOESN'T, THEN WE CAN JUST MAKE ONE!

Admission Ceremony

THAT'S SO COOL!

WON'T THAT MAKE US THE FOUNDING MEMBERS?

LET'S GIVE IT A TROUPE NAME!

WELL, FIRST WE ALL HAVE TO PASS OUR EXAMS.

YOU'RE RIGHT... THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!

WE CAN PUT ON WHATEVER PLAYS WE WANT!

IF WE DO THAT, THEN WE WON'T HAVE ANY OLDER STUDENTS.

I'M IN!

GOOD THINKING, MIYABI!

DRAMA CLUB
Garden

DRAMA CLUB
Garden
LOOKING FOR MEMBERS!

CULTURAL FESTIVAL
Festival Committee
Attraction
Announcements

HEY, I HEAR THERE'S A DISTRICT COM-PETITION THIS SPRING!

THAT DOESN'T MATTER!

OUR PLAY AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL WAS A HIT!

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A YEAR SINCE WE STARTED THE CLUB.

BUT... DO YOU REALLY THINK WE'RE READY FOR THIS?

LOOK. IT'S A SPRING COMPETITION HELD BY THE NATIONAL STUDENT THEATER ASSOCIATION.

HUH?

WE SHOULD MAKE IT IN TIME IF WE GET STARTED NOW. WHY DON'T WE ENTER?

WHAT'S THERE TO LOSE?

I GUESS WE CAN GIVE IT A SHOT?

WELL...

YOU'RE REALLY FIRED UP, MIYABI.

LIFE IS ALL ABOUT DO OR DON'T!

HOW EXCITED I FELT WATCHING.

I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW MOVING THAT PLAY WAS.

I WANT TO MAKE OTHER PEOPLE FEEL THE SAME WAY!

WHAT?! WE'RE GONNA PRACTICE LIKE THIS DURING WINTER BREAK, TOO?!

THEN WE HAVE TO WORK HARD TO PUT ON A GOOD SHOW!

DO YOU HAVE PLANS OR SOME-THING?

BUT...

WELL, NO, BUT...

WELL, YEAH. THE VETERAN SCHOOLS SPEND EVEN MORE TIME PRACTICING.

WHAT? I WANTED TO START REHEARSAL TODAY.

SHE SAID THEY HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO.

MIHO AND THE OTHERS AREN'T COMING?

HUH?

I SHOULD GET SOME FOR MOM.

ALL DONUTS ドーナツ全品 20%OFF

OH.

DONUTS ARE ON SALE.

MIYABI ?

YEAH.

WHO CARES ABOUT COMPETITIONS? SHOULDN'T CLUBS JUST BE ABOUT HAVING FUN?

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

Y'THINK SHE'LL REALIZE THAT EVERYONE'S GETTING FED UP WITH HER?

UMM. I'LL TAKE TWO ANGEL NUTS...

...AND THREE PON DE RINGS, PLEASE.

SHE'S WAAAY TOO SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.

YUKA AND MIYABI HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE LIKE KINDERGAR-TEN,

SO SHE PROBABLY FEELS LIKE SHE HAS TO PLAY ALONG, BUT...

IT'S LIKE, WHY IS SHE GETTING SO WORKED UP, Y'KNOW?

MAYBE SHE'S ON SOME SKETCHY DRUG.

あはは AHAHA

AND IT'S MAKING HER SUPER HYPER?

HILARI-OUS!

THAT'LL BE 563 YEN, PLEASE.

I WANT TO PUT ON GOOD PLAYS.

PLAYS THAT WILL GRIP PEOPLE BY THE HEART.

I GUESS I WAS THE ONLY ONE...

IF IT DOESN'T, THEN WE CAN JUST MAKE ONE!

GOOD IDEA!

I'M IN!

...WHO FELT THAT WAY.

YOU'RE GONNA GO TO ACTING SCHOOL?

HUH?

I THINK ...

EVERYONE WILL HAVE MORE FUN IF I DO.

I'M GOING TO QUIT AFTER THE COMPETI-TION.

BUT WHY? WHAT ABOUT THE CLUB?

NO WAY ...

MIYABI DECIDED TO JOIN FOR-RESTER ...

AFTER SHE SAW ONE OF THEIR PLAYS FOR ACTING SCHOOL.

SHE SAID THEY WERE THE TROUPE WITH THE MOST MO-MENTUM RIGHT NOW.

BUT MY LACK OF COMMIT-MENT?

SO, YOU'RE SAYING IT'S NOT THE ROLE SHE HAS A PROBLEM WITH,

SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH HANA-SAN'S SCRIPTS,

SO PROBABLY ISN'T HAPPY THAT AN INEXPE-RIENCED FIRST-YEAR IS WRITING IT THIS TIME.

"I DON'T WANT SOME FICKLE, FLUFFY-HAIRED INK SLINGER TREATING THEATER LIKE A JOKE!"

I THINK THAT'S HOW SHE FEELS.

DID SERIZAWA-SAN SAY THAT?

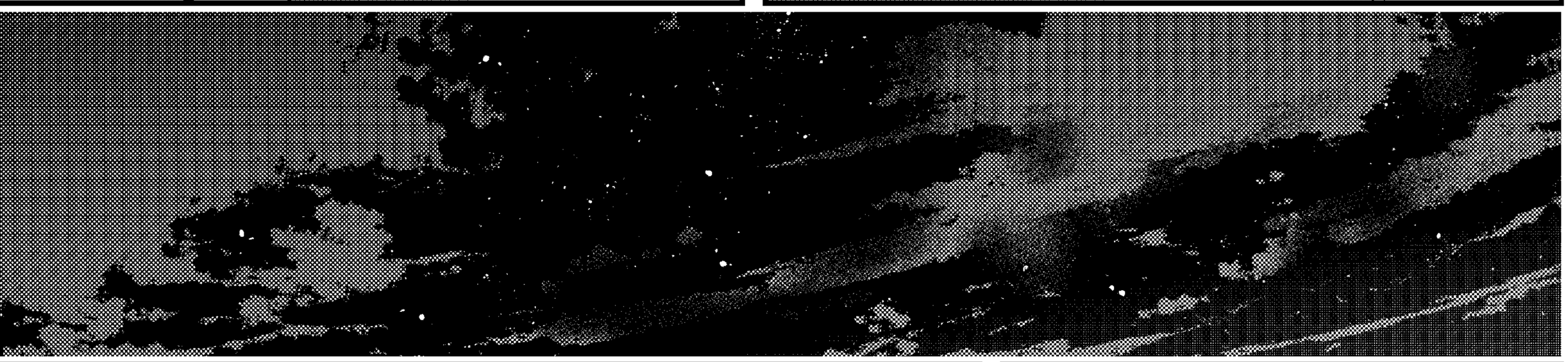
OH, NO! I JUST MEANT THAT'S THE GIST OF IT.

THE GIST OF IT?

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT TO BE MAD ABOUT MIYABI'S BEHAVIOR ...

...BUT SHE JUST DOESN'T WANT TO WORK WITH PEOPLE WHO AREN'T PASSIONATE.

SHE WANTS TO PUT ON A GOOD SHOW MORE THAN ANYONE.



MIYABI SERIZAWA TOLD ME SHE WANTS TO DROP OUT OF THE LEAD ROLE.

UM... I HEARD. SHE TOLD ME HERSELF.

I SEE.

SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?

HUH?

DO YOU WANT TO FIND A REPLACEMENT OR NOT?

YOU WANT ME TO DECIDE?

YOU BUILT THE FRAMEWORK FOR THIS PLAY, AFTER ALL.

WELL? WANT TO GIVE THE ROLE TO SOMEONE ELSE?

...

WE STARTED DIVIDING UP THE LABOR EVER SINCE HANA BECAME OUR PLAY-WRIGHT,

BUT IN MOST STUDENT PRODUC-TIONS, THE PLAYWRIGHT DIRECTS THE SHOW.

AND SINCE THIS IS AN AMATEUR PERFORMANCE, I WANT YOU TO HAVE THE MOST SAY.

IF SHE INSISTS ON DROP-PING OUT OF THE ROLE,

THEN THAT CAN'T BE HELPED.

...

I THOUGHT IF I JOINED THE CLUB ...

...THIS WOULDN'T HAPPEN ANYMORE.

...SHE WON'T HAVE A PLACE IN THE CLUB ANYMORE, RIGHT?

BUT, IF WE CONTINUE WITHOUT SERIZAWA-SAN...

...AND PUT ON THE AMATEUR PERFOR-MANCE, HOW-EVER SHODDY IT MIGHT BE...

I WANT TO CONTINUE WITH THE CURRENT CAST.

SO, PERSONALLY,

ALL RIGHT, THEN.

IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING I SAY...

JOKER

THAT SAID,

...WILL SOUND CONVINCING TO HER.

HEY, HEY. DON'T LOOK SO DOWN JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T WIN AT OLD MAID.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

消火栓

I'M GONNA GO BUY A DRINK.

HE SAYS BEFORE HE GOES TO PEEP ON THE GIRLS...

YEAH, RIGHT!

I HEAR YA. OLD MAID'S KINDA BORING.

LET'S PLAY SPEED.

OH.

SORRY... I WAS SPACING OUT.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

IT'S PRETTY CHILLY AT NIGHT.

HUH?

IF YOU DON'T NEED ANYTHING, THEN CAN YOU GO AWAY, PLEASE?

SORRY, BUT I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.

NOTHING. I WAS JUST GETTING SOME FRESH AIR.

THE GIRLS IN MY ROOM ARE PRACTIC-ING LINES, ANYWAY.

UHH.

WELL,

THAT'S FINE, BUT...

...YOU'VE GOT A HUGE MOTH ON YOUR BACK.

!

WHERE IS IT?!

GET IT OFF!

FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP FLAP

AAAAAAH!

AH...

YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T FLAP YOUR SHIRT LIKE–

FLAP

PICK IT OFF ME!

YOU CAN REACH UP MY SHIRT, JUST DO IT!

HUH ?!

AAAA

NOOOO WAAAAY

カミマ

...THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

AND ...

IF ONLY YOU'D MANAGED TO UNDO HER BRA.

THEN RIGHT ABOUT NOW...

HEY ...!

MY BRA CAME OFF!

YOU'D BETTER PUT IT BACK ON FOR ME.

ほわ WOO

JEEZ ...

FWOO

わ WOO

DON'T DRAG REALITY INTO THIS!

I DON'T THINK HER BRA WOULD COME OFF WITH HER SHIRT STILL ON...

C'MON, EVERY GUY'S DREAMED ABOUT IT ONCE OR TWICE OR A HUNDRED TIMES.

I'D RATHER WATCH THE ORGY THROUGH A PEEPHOLE, PERSON-ALLY.

I THOUGHT ORGIES WERE RAMPANT IN COLLEGE CLUBS...

GET REAL!

HOW IS IT WE'RE STAY-ING UNDER THE SAME ROOF WITH SO MANY GIRLS AND YET NO ONE'S COMING TO HANG OUT?

ALONE ...

ORGY...

HANG ON A SEC...

WAIT.

!

THIS IS SO STUPID ...

I'LL TAKE THAT TOO!

BUT ISN'T THAT BASI-CALLY LIKE WATCHING PORN?

WHAT'S WHAT?!

GLARE

THAT'S IT!

CHAPTER 151: FIRST GROUP PROJECT

ssshf

SFFFFS!...

SFFFFS!...

んガー NGAAH

ふぁ FWAH

"WHERE AM I?"

"IS THIS YOUR DOING AGAIN?"

MAYBE IT'D BE BETTER TO LEAVE THE REVEAL FOR A LITTLE LATER?

HMM.

HMM.

THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE TOO STRAIGHT-FORWARD.

"THAT'S RIGHT."

June Amateur Performance MONEY (Working Title)

"THIS IS THE WORLD THAT LIES AT THE END OF THE PATH YOU DIDN'T TAKE."

SLIDE

ガラ

IN THAT CASE, I SHOULD MAKE THIS CONVER-SATION MORE AM-BIGUOUS ...

FUJII ?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

HUH ?!

OH, I, UH...

WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS?

I THOUGHT YOU WENT TO THE BATH-ROOM, BUT YOU NEVER CAME BACK, SO WE CAME TO LOOK FOR YOU.

THEN WE SAW THAT THE LIGHTS WERE ON IN HERE.

IS THAT THE SCRIPT?

OH, YEAH ...

SO, WE THOUGHT WE'D JOIN YOU.

AND THAT'S NO FAIR.

WE THOUGHT YOU ACTUALLY WENT TO HAVE AN ORGY WITH THE GIRLS.

YOU GUYS ...

SO I WAS GOING OVER THE DETAILS OF THE PLAY.

I THOUGHT I SHOULD DO SOME-THING TO SHOW HER THAT I'M SERIOUS,

WELL, SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO BACK OUT BECAUSE I DIDN'T SEEM PASSIONATE ENOUGH.

YOU KNOW HOW MIYABI SERIZAWA WAS CHOSEN FOR THE LEAD ROLE, RIGHT?

YEAH, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SNEAK OUT BY YOURSELF.

STILL, THAT'S COLD, MAN.

I GETCHA. SO, THAT'S WHY "ORGY" GAVE YOU AN IDEA.

WERE YOU PLAYING EVERY ROLE BY YOUR-SELF?

A ONE-MAN ORGY ...

DON'T TRY TO TAKE ON EVERY-THING BY YOURSELF JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE THE PLAY-WRIGHT!

IT'D BE BETTER TO GO THROUGH IT WITH MORE PEOPLE, RIGHT?

GUYS ...

THANKS!

YOU CAN REPAY US BY SETTING UP A MIXER.

NOT HAPPEN-ING!

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST ASK US FOR HELP?

WE'RE PART OF THE DRAMA CLUB, TOO, Y'KNOW.

CHAMBERS COUNTY

G. ARM

SERI-OUS-LY?

THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY HELP MAKE THE CHARACTER SEEM MORE FEMININE.

SEE ?

PFF

QUIT JOKING AROUND, MAN! BE SERIOUS!

I AM. I'M TOTALLY SERIOUS.

"WHERE D'YOU WANNA GO, MISH?"

CHAMBERS

June Amateur Performance MONEY (Working Title)

"HEY, HEY!"

SORRY! WE CAN EXPLAIN ...

AKI-MOTO-SAN...

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

IT'S WAY PAST LIGHTS-OUT.

I SEE.

RYU TOLD ME THE LEAD WAS BACKING OUT.

IN RE-TURN, LET ME FEEL YOUR BOOB-

WHAP

I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

WE'LL LISTEN TO YOU.

IT'D BE BAD IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU GUYS, SO GO BACK TO YOUR ROOM TONIGHT.

BUT WE HAVE PRACTICE TOMOR-ROW, AND RULES ARE RULES.

BUT ...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT'S ALL THE COMMO-TION?

DID YOU JUST SAY BOOBS?!

YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU?!

BAP

ガス

BAP

ガス

YOU'RE JUST HEARING THINGS!

THEN WHY DON'T WE PRACTICE WITH THEM?

FINE? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THE FIRST-YEARS ALL ALONE.

RYU, JIN...

THESE GUYS WANT TO STAY UP AND PRACTICE FOR THE LEAD ACTRESS, BUT THEY WON'T LISTEN TO REASON.

HUH ...?

WE DON'T SPARE ANY EFFORT IN HELPING PEOPLE WHO ARE PASSIONATE, RIGHT, JIN?

YUP.

HMM. SOUNDS FINE TO ME.

YOU GUYS BETTER STICK AROUND AFTER THIS IS OVER.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A WHORE-HOUSE-LOVING BUM!

YOU'RE SO NICE, TSUZURA-SEMPAI!

UH-UH.

OH, THEN COULD YOU PLEASE PLAY THE STORE OWNER IN THIS SCENE?

AN ALL-NIGHTER OR TWO'S NO BIG DEAL.

SO, WHAT ROLE SHOULD I PLAY?

IN ORDER TO MOVE OTHERS,

YOU HAVE TO MOVE YOURSELF FIRST.

I WAS CURIOUS WHAT YOU'D DO...

...AND HOW YOU'D TRY TO CONVINCE HER.

WELL W-...

I DID PRAISE HIS DECISION.

FAVOR

YOU'LL HELP, TOO, WON'T YOU? O BENEV-OLENT AKIMOTO-SEMPAI. ♪

AND DIDN'T YOU ALSO ADMIRE FUJII'S DECI-SION TO KEEP SERIZAWA AS THE LEAD ROLE?

YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

I REFUSE TO BEND TO THE WILL OF FATE!

I WOULD SOONER TAKE YOUR HAND AS FAIR AS A LILY...

...AND DISAPPEAR INTO THE NIGHT AS A PHANTOM THIEF!

COME! ONWARD TO OUR JOURNEY OF LOVE!

FWIP

*TAKARAZUKA REVENUE: AN ALL-FEMALE THEATER TROUPE BASED IN HYOGO PREFECTURE.

APPAR-ENTLY, SHE APPLIED TO TAKARAZUKA* BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO PLAY MALE ROLES.

CHIKA CAN PLAY MEN, TOO, Y'KNOW.

FINE!

SO BE IT!

"IF FATE WISHES TO TEAR US APART, THEN I WOULD RATHER DIE!"

DON'T SPILL THE BEANS!

NICE. IT'D BE A BIG HELP TO HAVE THE SCRIPTWRITING COACH AND CASTING LEADER HERE.

FINE, THEN. I'LL ASK HANA AND MARI TO COME. THEY'RE IN THE SAME ROOM AS ME.

DON'T JUST SET ME UP LIKE THAT!

WOOO

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

READ CAREFULLY. IT SAYS STEED, NOT STUD.

WHO'RE YOU CALLIN' A STUD?

PFF

AH!

"WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!"

"THE OWNER CARRIED US ON HIS BACK LIKE A TRUSTY STUD!"

IT MAKES IT FEEL LIKE A SKIT.

I LIKE IT. IT FITS THE CHARAC-TERS, TOO.

WHY DON'T WE USE IT?

HA, HA! THAT MISTAKE'S ACTUALLY PRETTY FUNNY.

WHEN'D YOU GET HERE, HIYAMA-KUN?

JUST NOW. RYU CALLED ME OUT.

GOOD POINT!

THEN MAYBE WE SHOULD CUT THE SOUND THERE.

SURE.

I'LL GO GET SOME LABELS.

OKAY, LET'S PICK IT BACK UP, PLEASE!

THAT MAKES IT EASIER FOR THE AUDIENCE TO GET THE PUNCHLINE.

SOUND DIRECTOR
YUJI HIYAMA
(THIRD-YEAR)

THEATER...

THIS IS NOTHING LIKE WRITING A NOVEL!

TOGEN-SENSEI WAS RIGHT.

...ISN'T SOMETHING YOU MAKE BY YOURSELF.

IT'S A GROUP EFFORT.

DON'T GIVE ME THAT. ABOUT THE ROLE.

ABOUT WHAT?

SQUEEEK

HEY, MIYABI.

YOU SHOULD RECON-SIDER.

THE FACT THAT HE COULDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTIONS PROVES IT.

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT!

I BET THE PLAY WASN'T EVEN HIS IDEA.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I?

FRANKLY, I DON'T TRUST HIM.

FOR STARTERS, THE SCRIPT HIS GIRLFRIEND BROUGHT TO THE CLUB WAS WRITTEN IN A GIRL'S HAND-WRITING.

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS ...

...DECIDE EVERY-THING BY YOUR-SELF?

THINGS WOULDN'T HAVE TURNED OUT THAT THE WAY THEY DID ...

IF YOU'D JUST TRIED TO LISTEN TO EVERY-ONE AND TALK THINGS THROUGH!

THE GROUP ONLY FELL APART BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ENOUGH COMMUNI-CATION!

I KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO REPEAT WHAT HAPPENED IN HIGH SCHOOL,

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU WEREN'T AT LEAST SOMEWHAT AT FAULT, EITHER.

YOU JUST LOOK LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE!

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW,

I WONDER WHAT'S FOR BREAK-FAST.

I HOPE THERE ARE RAW EGGS.



UMM. NOT QUITE SO ENTHUSI-ASTIC.

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT...

"I FEEL LIKE I FINALLY UNDER-STAND!" LIKE THAT?

SAY THAT LINE WITH MORE PASSION ...

YO, YO. YOU AREN'T GONNA CONVINCE OUR LEAD ACTRESS LIKE THAT.

I DON'T GET IT!

"BUT I FEEL LIKE I FINALLY UNDER-STAND!"

"I WAS LOST FOR SO LONG,"

HEY, MIYABI.

DO YOU STILL FEEL LIKE BACK-ING OUT AFTER SEEING THIS?

"I'LL MAKE THE PATH I CHOSE INTO THE RIGHT ONE!"

"I WAS LOST FOR SO LONG,"

"BUT I FINALLY FEEL LIKE I UNDER-STAND."

"THERE IS A CORRECT PATH!"

キリッ...
CLENCH

SO I'VE BEEN RE-WORKING THE PLAY WITH EV-ERYONE.

I WANTED TO DO SOME-THING TO MAKE YOU RECONSIDER,

...HOW'S THAT?

SERI-ZAWA-SAN!

I'M CONVINCED THAT KEEP-ING YOU AS THE LEAD ROLE WAS THE RIGHT DECISION.

AFTER SEEING YOUR PERFOR-MANCE JUST NOW,

...!

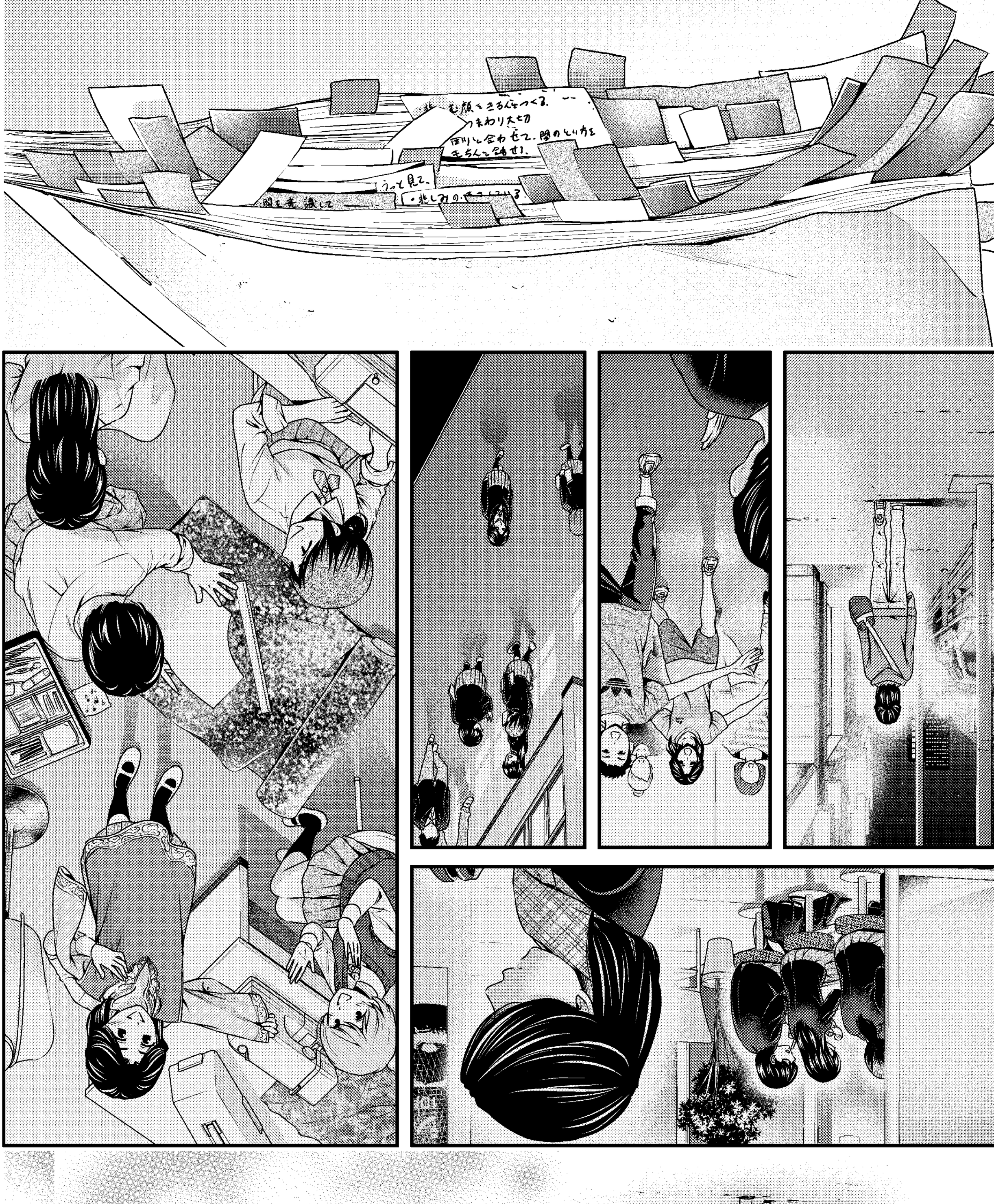
"I WANT TO PUT ON A GOOD SHOW."

WILL YOU PLEASE ... PLAY THE HEROINE?

IF YOU'RE UP TO IT,

THEN WE COULD REALLY USE YOUR HELP.

EVERYONE FEELS THE SAME WAY.


口も顔をきちんとつくる。
つまわり大切
ぼりと合わせて。開のとり方を
きちんと合わせ。
うって見て。
・悲しみの
開を表現して

WILL YOU DO IT?

YES ...

I'LL DO MY BEST ...!

WAKE UP, HANA. EVERY-THING WORKED OUT.

REALLY ?

YOU MON-STER!

OH? I THOUGHT YOU SAID AN ALL-NIGHTER OR TWO WAS NO BIG DEAL?

HEY, AKIMOTO. IS IT COOL IF WE SIT OUT THE MORNING PRACTICE?

DUDE ...

WHA ...?

AH...

AND SO, ONE PROBLEM WAS SOLVED.

BUT AROUND THAT TIME...

WHOA!

...ONE OF THE VIRGIN MALE MEMBERS...

やあああ！ AAAAH!

JUST DO IT.

...WAS DISCOVERED WITH HIS CHASTITY SHATTERED.

CHAPTER 152: I WANNA TAKE YOUR VIRGINITY

I'M REALLY GLAD...

...YOU DECIDED TO PLAY THE LEAD, MIYABI.

AND THE GUYS SEEM LIKE THEY'RE SERIOUS DEEP DOWN, SO I THINK EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT.

YEAH.

TH-

THANKS, YUKA.

I REALLY LOVE YOUR ACTING.

YO, SHOW ME THE GOODS!

I... I DIDN'T!

DON'T LIE! I SAW YOU!

WHY'D YOU JINGLE YOUR DINGLE BEFORE COMING TO THE BATH, HUH?

KNOCK IT OFF!

OH?

WHAT'S ALL THE COMMO-TION?

WANT ME TO PEEL IT BACK FOR YOU? EH?

YOUR LITTLE GUY'S PRETTY COV-ERED UP.

AW, LEAVE ME ALONE!

THIS IS THE MEN'S BATH. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GRAND-STAND.

WHAT, WERE YOU TRYIN' TO MAKE IT LOOK A LITTLE BIGGER?

IT'S BECAUSE THIS IS THE MEN'S BATH!

YOURS IS SUPER COVERED, TSUZURA-SAN!

IT LOOKS LIKE AN ELE-PHANT'S TRUNK!

THAT'S A SURPRISE!

70 PER-CENT OF JAP-ANESE BOYS HAVE IT!

DON'T BE ASHAMED ABOUT YOUR FORE-SKIN!

THIS DUDE'S HARD AS A ROCK!

DON'T TEASE THE FIRST-YEARS.

FOR REAL?

EVEN CELEBS HAVE IT...

EVEN *STIN BIEBER!

THEY SAY HOLLYWOOD ACTORS LIKE O*LANDO BLOOM AND J*DE LAW HAVE IT TOO, Y'KNOW.

PRETTY MUCH.

UM... IS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?

GOOD TO HEAR!

I'M STARTING TO FEEL PROUD OF MINE!

ALL RIGHT.

GOOD WORK ON THE GOLDEN WEEK TRAIN-ING CAMP, EVERYONE!

CHEERS!

WAIT, YOU KNOW KUWANA-SAN?!

RUMOR HAS IT HE MAKES A LIVING READING CELEBRITIES' FORTUNES...

I HEARD HE'S A MEMBER OF A NOTORIOUS CRIME SYNDICATE.

SOME SAY HE'S THE HEIR OF A MAJOR FINANCIAL GROUP.

GOOD QUESTION...

THE MYSTERIOUS NEIGHBOR.

OH.

HIS NAME'S KUWANA-SAN?

HE'S FAMOUS AROUND MEIJI U.

REALLY? WHAT'S HE LIKE?

SPIT IT OUT ALREADY!

HMM...

JUST WHO IS HE...?

WHAT'S THE MATTER? TROUBLE?

OH, SEMPAI ...

YEAH! THIS IS A MATTER OF TRUST!

IF YOU REFUSE TO TELL US,

THEN WE'RE NOT FRIENDS ANY-MORE!

THIS GUY LOST HIS VIRGINITY LAST NIGHT AND HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND!

GET THIS!

THE *GIRL* OFFERED ?!

WHAT ?!

BUT HE WON'T GIVE US A NAME...

I GOT HIM TO TELL US THAT SHE PROPO-SITIONED HIM,

SOMETHING JUICY LIKE THAT HAP-PENED WHILE WE WERE HELPIN' OUT THIS GUY?!

WHAT ?!

...YET NO ONE HAS SEEN IN THE FLESH!

THE THING THAT EVERY MAN DREAMS OF ENCOUN-TERING...

HOLD UP... COULD THIS BE WHAT I THINK IT IS?

THAT MYSTE-RIOUS, ELUSIVE BEAST WE CALL ...

I FOUND HIM ASLEEP ON THE TOILET THIS MORNING.

A PERV-ETTE!

WE'RE PROBABLY BETTER OFF DEDUCING FROM WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW.

IF SHE DROPPED HINTS ABOUT A FUTURE ENCOUNTER IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SILENCE, THEN IT'S POINTLESS TO INTERROGATE HIM.

JUST TELL US WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE! ANY-THING!

ALL RIGHT, SPILL IT!

WAIT!

HNGH

GH GH

FOR REAL ?!

HE WAS FOUND IN THE MEN'S BATHROOM IN THE GUEST HALL.

Men's Bathroom

THE ESTIMATED TIME OF CLIMAX IS APPROXIMATELY 2 A.M. LAST NIGHT.

GOOD POINT ...

WE CAN RULE OUT CHIKA, MARI, AND HANA, SINCE THEY WERE WITH US.

AT THE TIME, WE WERE PRACTIC-ING IN THE SEMINAR ROOM.

SERIZAWA SEEMS UNLIKELY, THOUGH.

MMM. I STILL DON'T KNOW MOST OF THE GIRLS' PERSONALITIES.

ANY IDEAS?

IF I HAD TO GUESS...

I DUNNO WHERE TO START.

BUT IF EVERYONE ELSE IS FAIR GAME, THEN WE HAVE WAY TOO MANY SUSPECTS.

LET'S NARROW IT DOWN TO GIRLS WHO SEEM THE MOST LIKELY.

SHE MIGHT GO WITH IT IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT.

THAT'S TRUE. SHE IS KIND OF A TEASE.

OH, I GUESS IT'S NOT JUST ME, AFTER ALL.

...THEN MAYBE MAO-SEMPAI.

KINA-SHI?

WHAT'S UP? WHY THE BIG SIGH?

FOR EXAMPLE, LET'S SAY THE FIRST-YEAR WAS DEPRESSED OVER PRACTICE...

GLUM

とぼ"

GLUM

とぼ"...

OH... KINASHI-SAN...

I MEAN, I JUST THOUGHT SHE'S ALWAYS SAYING SUGGESTIVE STUFF.

THE REASON YOU CAN'T SPEAK WELL...

...IS PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU'RE TIRED.

COME WITH ME!

HUH ?!

I'M NOT SURE IF I'M CUT OUT FOR THIS...

I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO SPEAK WELL AND I KEEP FUMBLING MY LINES...

HMM.

HUFF HUFF

GO ON.

YOU CAN TOUCH IT. ♡

HUFF HUFF...!

...AND CHEER YOURSELF UP.

YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING NAUGHTY...

INSTALLING MUSCLE

THAT'S TOTALLY POSSI-BLE!

REALLY?!

MAYBE SHE...

WHA ?!

SHE'S BEEN JUMPING FROM GUY TO GUY SINCE HER FIRST YEAR,

AND I HEAR SHE BROKE UP AGAIN RECENTLY.

THE SECOND-YEAR, ANNA YUZURI.

ACTING DIRECTOR

OH, YEAH. I CAN THINK OF ANOTHER PRIME SUSPECT.

WHAT YEAR ?

SOMEONE FINALLY SHOWED UP...

MY BODY'S ACHING SO MUCH I'M GOING CRAZY.

HEY, WILL YOU PLAY WITH ME FOR A LITTLE BIT?

!

HANG ON A SEC.

SOUNDS LIKE SOME-THING OUT OF A PORNO ...

SHE'S DEFINITELY THE MOST LIKELY SUSPECT!

I THINK WE FOUND OUR CULPRIT!

YOU SAID 2 A.M., RIGHT?

ISN'T THAT THE TIME WHEN HANA-SEMPAI LEFT THE SEMINAR ROOM?

DON'T TELL ME...!

AH!

AHH!

THAT WAS WHEN SHE WENT TO GET LABELS...

TRUE, SHE DIDN'T COME BACK FOR A WHILE.

WHAAAA?!

I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO LOOK AT HANA-SEMPAI THE SAME WAY AGAIN!

IN A GOOD WAY!

GOOD TIMING.

I NEEDED TO BLOW OFF SOME STEAM!

BUT SHE WAS GONE FOR LESS THAN TEN MINUTES!

THAT'S PLENTY OF TIME!

AAAAH!

TOILET

!

WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM?!

HOW BOLD ...

TO THINK SHE'D STRIKE WHILE WE WERE HAVING A MEETING.

A SECOND VICTIM...

LUCKY BASTARD ...

...THE CULPRIT'S SIGNA-TURE.

I THINK I'VE FIGURED OUT...

WHO DID THIS TO YOU?!

HEY! PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!

UGH ...

*REFERENCING THE FAMOUS PHANTOM THIEF CHARACTER CREATED BY EDOGAWA RANPO

WHAT IS THIS, THE FIEND WITH TWENTY-TWO FACES*?!

THAT'S PROBABLY HOW SHE MARKS HER PREY.

SHUF

BOTH OF THE VICTIMS...

...HAVE A HICKEY ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THEIR NECK.

HEY.

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS HIDING?

YOU PRETENDED TO TAKE PART IN THE INVESTIGATION...

YOU BAS-TARDS...

...JUST SO YOU COULD COVER HER TRACKS!

I KNEW IT!

WHAT?! LET ME SEE!

SHOW US!

...WITH GUYS LIKE YOU ANY-MORE!

I CAN'T WORK...

DA SH

INSTALLING MUSCLES

YOU TRAITORS ...

AS FELLOW FIRST-YEARS, I THOUGHT WE WERE FRIENDS.

I DUNNO WHERE THEY COULD...

LET'S JUST HOPE THEY DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH.

SHEESH. WHERE THE HELL DID THEY GO?

SHIMA!

KASAI!

I KNEW IT!

BAM

SHUF
H
II

YEAH...

WAIT, MAYBE A STING OPERATION IS JUST WHAT WE NEED.

DON'T JUST SIT HERE ON STANDBY, YOU JACK-ASSES!

THE PERV-GODDESS WON'T APPEAR IF YOU MAKE SUCH A FUSS.

EXCUSE ME, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE LEAVE?

TRY NOT TO FRIGHTEN HER!

SERI-OUSLY? AFTER HER!

HEY, GUYS!

WHERE'D SHE GO ?!

SHE'S GONE!

WE'VE LOST HER.

OH, WELL. LET'S SPLIT UP AND LOOK.

I JUST SAW SOME-ONE RUN DOWN THAT HALLWAY!

SLIDE
カラ…

MAYBE I'LL JUST SNEAK BACK TO THE CAF-ETERIA.

...BUT I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT ANY OF THIS.

Y'KNOW, THEY'RE DRAGGING ME ALONG LIKE THIS IS TOTALLY NORMAL ...

!

YA

NK

WHA ?!

SHH. BE QUIET.

WHOA!

I GOT CAUGHT BECAUSE I WAS TOO CARE-LESS.

THIS MAKES THINGS WAY HARDER.

THUD

...THE GIRL WHO TALKED TO ME WHEN WE FIRST GOT HERE!

YOU'RE ...

I WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE CLUB IF YOU DO.

DON'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT ME, OKAY?

!

FLAP ぱっ

SO, WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME FUN?

ぱっ FLAP

IN RETURN,

WH-WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

WHAT ARE YOU AFTER?

I KEEP THIS A SECRET, TOO.

I LOVE THE FEELING OF BECOMING ONE WITH SOMEONE.

THE FEELING OF BEING DESIRED... I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF IT.

I ADORE SEX!

BECAUSE I LOVE IT, THAT'S WHY.

AH, HA, HA. WHAT KINDA QUESTION IS THAT?

WHY?

IS IT WEIRD ...

FOR A GIRL TO LIKE SEX?

THERE'RE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE OUT THERE. SOME PEOPLE LOVE THE SAME SEX, SOME PEOPLE DON'T WANT ANYONE AT ALL...

WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF DIVERSITY, DON'T WE?

ALL RIGHT. I'LL ACCEPT YOUR VALUES,

GRIP

SO RESPECT MINE.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL REALLY GOOD. ♥

SHUDDER

...!

SO, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL...

...ABOUT A GIRL LIKE ME?

OH, C'MON. IT'S JUST A GAME.

NOT TO ME!

...WITH THE WOMAN I LOVE, OKAY?!

FWIP

I ONLY WANT TO DO THIS ...

BULLSHIT. WE'RE NOT LETTING YOU GO UNTIL YOU TELL US WHO THE CULPRIT IS!

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ...!

WHERE'D YOU GET THAT HICKEY?

EXPLAIN YOUR-SELF, BUSTER.

WELL ?

I CAN'T...!

TRAI-TOR!

LICK ペロ♥

PROBABLY SOME-THING STUPID AGAIN.

WHAT ARE THE GUYS GETTING WORKED UP OVER?



CHAPTER 153: FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIP

RUI Mobile
LA LA LA DING
DING DING DALA
YEAH ...?
MMM ...
WHERE ARE YOU?
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET TEN MIN-UTES AGO.
HUH ?!
UH...
SNORE...
SNORE...
SNORE...
SNORE...

HUH ?!

I WAS GETTING READY IN MY DREAMS AND-

NOT FUNNY. DENIED.

I'LL LET YOU OFF IF YOU HAVE A FUNNY EXCUSE.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

SORRY, RUI!

FIRST, YOU'RE LATE, THEN YOUR JOKES SUCK. WHAT A DISASTER.

AND HERE I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR FIRST DATE SINCE YOU WENT ON YOUR TRAINING CAMP...

GIVE MY LAME JOKES A BREAK!

YOU KNEW YOU HAD ME WHEN YOU REALIZED I WAS LATE, DIDN'T YOU?

A LITTLE.

BUT TO MAKE UP FOR IT,

WELL,

AS LONG AS YOU'RE PROPERLY SORRY. WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.

I GUESS I'LL LET YOU OFF THIS TIME.

GRR

YEAH, YEAH.

I UNDER-STAND.

YOU HAVE TO DO WHATEVER I SAY ALL DAY!

WH-

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM ?!

WELL,

I FIGURED YOU WERE GONNA TELL ME TO KISS YOU, SO I WENT AHEAD AND DID IT.

AM I WRONG ?

I'M MAD BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T!

SORRY IF I READ YOU WRONG.

YOU MAKE ME SO MAD SOME-TIMES!

SIGN: SPA RESORT / BATH GARDEN

AHH... THIS IS SO RELAXING.

SW SH

IT'S LIKE A FLOATING POOL.

SOMEONE AT WORK GAVE ME A COUPON.

I'D ALWAYS WANTED TO CHECK IT OUT.

WHY'D YOU WANNA COME TO A HOT SPRINGS POOL, ANYWAY?

UNTIL I SAY IT'S OKAY.

FLOATIES AREN'T ALLOWED IN HERE.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO BE YOUR FLOATY?

THE FIRST DAY WE WERE THERE, THE LEAD ACTRESS SAID SHE WAS GOING TO BACK OUT OF THE ROLE.

WHAT?

IT TOOK A LOT OF WORK TO CONVINCE HER.

OH, YEAH! THE CAMP!

MAN, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT A MESS IT WAS!

WERE YOU THAT TIRED FROM THE CAMP?

IT TOOK YOU A WHILE TO ANSWER YOUR PHONE THIS MORNING.

COULDN'T YOU HAVE JUST REPLACED HER?

SURE, BUT I REALLY WANTED HER TO PLAY THE ROLE.

HUH ...

SO, I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT REWORKING THE SCRIPT TO TRY TO CONVINCE HER.

THAT'S AWFUL.

SHE DIDN'T WANT TO WORK WITH ME.

I GUESS SHE THOUGHT I WASN'T MOTIVATED ENOUGH AS THE PLAY-WRIGHT.

SERIZAWA-SAN'S AMAZING.

OH, HER NAME IS MIYABI SERIZAWA.

SHE HAS THE MOST POWERFUL VOICE OUT OF ALL OF THE FIRST-YEARS.

ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS READ A FEW LINES AND THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE ROOM CHANGES.

I WOULDN'T SAY I'M OBSESSED.

I JUST MEAN FROM A THEATER PERSPEC-TIVE.

ALSO, IN HIGH SCHOOL, SHE-

YOU SEEM PRETTY OB-SESSED WITH HER.

HUH ?

I WAS SURE THAT WITH HER AS THE LEAD, WE COULD PUT ON A GREAT SHOW.

NAH, NAH, NAH. DON'T BE SILLY!

DON'T TELL ME...

HEY, WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR NECK?

IT LOOKS LIKE A HICKEY.

TOLT

...

HE NEVER QUITS!

THAT WAS JUST FROM MY FRIEND PLAYING A DUMB PRANK!

YOU MAKE IT SOUND ROUGH,

I GUESS THERE REALLY IS A DIFFER-ENCE.

!

SPSH

RUI ...

NO WONDER YOU FORGOT ABOUT OUR DATE.

BA

KYAAAH! THE WATER'S SO STRONG!

RUI, WAI—

SPOOSH

MUST BE NICE TO BE A COLLEGE STUDENT.

BUT WHILE I'M SLAVING AWAY AT WORK, YOU'RE OFF GOOFING AROUND WITH FRIENDS.

...

AH!

SORRY! I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE BEHIND ME...

WAIT...

HUH?

AREN'T YOU...

HIBIKI?

RUI-CHAN, TOO? IS YOUR WHOLE FAMILY HERE?

NAH, WE CAME BY OUR-SELVES.

ARE THEY FRIENDS OF YOURS, HIBIKI?

OH, HEY! BIKKI!

LONG TIME NO SEE!

YOU STILL RE-MEMBER THAT DUMB NICKNAME ...

OH... THEY'RE MY FATHER'S EX-WIFE'S CHILDREN.

REALLY? DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU STEP-SIBLINGS?

I GUESS?

NICE TO MEET YOU! I'M HIBIKI'S FRIEND, MIO.

H-

HEY.

ADVICE ?

WHAT?! NO WAY! IT'S EMBAR-RASSING!

I HAD NO IDEA YOU HAD SIBLINGS!

OH, C'MON.

WHY DON'T YOU TRY ASKING THEM FOR ADVICE?

YOU MUST BE REALLY CLOSE ...

I MEAN, YOU'RE ONLY STEP-SIBLINGS, RIGHT?

IT'S NEAT THAT YOU TWO COME TO PLACES LIKE THIS BY YOUR-SELVES.

BUT Y'KNOW,

IT'S A LONG STORY...

THOUGH YOU DON'T REALLY LOOK LIKE IT RIGHT NOW.

NAH, WE JUST USE EACH OTHER'S NAMES.

I AM SLIGHTLY OLDER, THOUGH.

HMM. THEN DO YOU WANT HER TO CALL YOU ONII-CHAN?

IT'S KIND OF AMAZING THAT YOU TWO BECAME STEP SIBLINGS AT THE SAME AGE!

LIKE SOME-THING OUT OF A DRAMA!

WHAT DO YOU CALL EACH OTHER?

DO YOU USE ONII-CHAN AND ONEE-CHAN OR SOME-THING?

I USED TO GET JEALOUS WHENEVER MY FRIEND'S LITTLE SISTER CALLED HIM ONII-CHAN.

I GUESS I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT IT'S LIKE.

HUH? UHH, MAYBE!

I WAS AN ONLY CHILD UNTIL OUR PARENTS GOT MARRIED, AFTER ALL.

HE'S GONE!

HUH ?!

!

EW

TWO

WHISPER

GROSS.

SO, I...

WHAT HAPPENED?

GLOOM しお

GLOOM しお

WHAT'D YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

...SO,

キッ TCH

BUT THE OTHER DAY,

A BOY FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL GAVE ME A LOVE LETTER.

Y-

YEAH.

HIBIKI.

YEAH, WE KNOW.

WE GO TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL ...

B-

BUT ...

I MEAN, IT'S KINDA OLD-FASHIONED ...

HUH? THAT'S GREAT. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

LOVE LETTER

SO I'M NOT SURE HOW I SHOULD REPLY...

BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM,

HE WROTE THAT HE FELL IN LOVE WITH ME AT FIRST SIGHT,

I'VE NEVER EVEN TALKED TO HIM BEFORE!

GOT-CHA.

ARE EITHER OF YOU GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE?

BUT NOW THAT IT'S HER TURN, SHE ACTS LIKE THIS.

I THINK SHE'S JUST GETTING COLD FEET.

HIBIKI ALWAYS GETS JEALOUS OF OUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE BOYFRIENDS,

I SEE.

WELL, YOU SHOULD JUST TURN HIM DOWN IF YOU'RE NOT INTER-ESTED.

THAT'S THE THING!

UHH ...

OH.

HUH ?!

HUH ?

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO GO OUT WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND? WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT HER?

I HAD NO IDEA!

O-OH, REALLY ?

VERY CON-VINCING ...

WOW! YOU, TOO?

SHE'S RIGHT HERE.

YEAH, I AM...

THE RESTAURANT STAFF TOLD ME RUI-CHAN HAS A BOYFRIEND SHE'S HEAD OVER HEELS FOR.

I GUESS ...

...I'D HAVE TO SAY IT'S EVERY-THING.

WH-WHAT ABOUT HER?

UHH ...

GOOD QUESTION ...

...

WHENEVER SHE SMILES OR CRIES IN FRONT OF ME,

IT MAKES ME REALIZE HOW MUCH SHE TRUSTS ME.

SURE, IT GETS FRUSTRATING WHEN WE ARGUE SOMETIMES,

BUT SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN KINDA BAD AT EXPRESSING HERSELF.

WOW... THAT'S SO RO-MANTIC!

...

AND SHE MIGHT GET MAD AT ME FOR SAYING THIS,

BUT I THINK THE WAY SHE POUTS WHEN SHE'S UPSET...

IS REALLY CUTE.

HUH? ARE YOU OKAY, RUI-CHAN? ARE YOU GETTING DIZZY?

I-

I'M FINE!

WANT TO GET OUT?

I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY CURRENT GIRLFRIEND WHEN WE FIRST MET,

BUT THE MORE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER, THE MORE I GRADUALLY GOT TO KNOW HER.

HOW SHE'S A BIG CRYBABY, AND SUPER HARD-WORKING, AND HOW SHE'S ACTUALLY REALLY CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS...

IF YOU'RE NOT TOTALLY UNINTERESTED,

THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY TALKING TO HIM?

I SEE...

YOU'RE RIGHT. I CAN'T DECIDE WITHOUT KNOWING ANYTHING.

I THINK THAT GETTING TO KNOW HER...

IS WHAT MADE ME WHO I AM NOW.

I'LL THINK I'LL TRY TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP...

JUST MAKE SURE TO BE CAREFUL, OKAY?

THAT'S GOOD.

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOUR DAD'S KEEPING OUR RELATIONSHIP A SECRET.

...

YEAH.



YOU'RE SLAVING AWAY AT WORK WHILE I'M—

IT'S FINE.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOU'RE RIGHT.

SORRY.

I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU, SO YOU CAN TALK ABOUT THE CLUB IF YOU WANT.

NO...

HON-ESTLY,

I WAS JUST A LITTLE JEAL-OUS.

THAT'S ALL.

HUH?

I WON'T TALK ABOUT THE CLUB ANYMORE.

ACTU-
ALLY,
I WANT
YOU TO
TELL
ME...

O-

ONII-
CHAN...

DID
YOU
JUST
...

...

DID...

WAFT

WAFT

RU-

RU-
RU-

RUI...

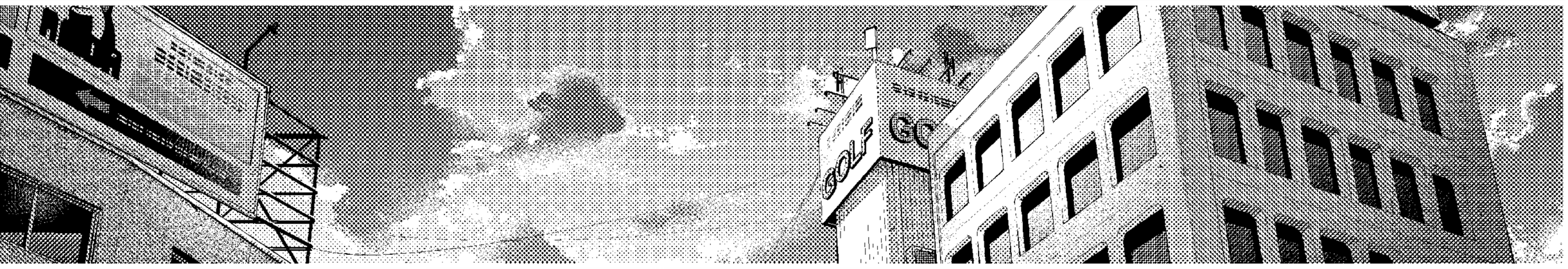
NO! YOU'RE CREEPY!

I'LL NEVER ASK YOU FOR ANYTHING AGAIN!

NO WAY!

SAY IT AGAIN! JUST ONE MORE TIME!

HEY!



RUI!

TAK TAK

HUH?! WHAT'S WITH THAT?!

IF YOU SAY IT AGAIN, I'LL KISS YOU FIVE TIMES!

PFF

HEY. DID YOU GO OUT TODAY?

HEY, HINA-NEE ...

GOING HOME?

UM... YEAH. I WENT TO THE HOT SPRING POOL WITH A FRIEND ...

DID YOU HAVE FUN?

YEAH. THERE WERE ALL KINDS OF HOT SPRINGS.

...

...

IT'S OKAY.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO HIDE IT!

WE'RE HOME!

HEY, GIRLS.

GOOD TIMING.

CAN YOU TWO TELL ME WHEN YOU CAN TAKE SOME TIME OFF FROM WORK?

TIME OFF?

NOW THAT HINA-CHAN'S BACK HOME,

YOUR MOTHER AND I WERE TALKING ABOUT GOING ON A FAMILY TRIP.

DOME GIRL

喫茶&BAR

GET THIS, OWNER...

...MADE PLANS TO GO ON A TRIP TOGETHER!

どぉぉぉぉ

MY FAMILY...

おぉぉん

YOU DON'T SEEM TOO HAPPY ABOUT IT.

COULDN'T YOU SAY YOU'RE BUSY WITH WORK AND TRY TO GET OUT OF IT?

I THOUGHT ABOUT IT!

GIVE ME SOMETHING STRONG!

I GET WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM.

SURE, NORMALLY ANYONE WOULD BE PSYCHED ABOUT THIS!

BUT YOU KNOW MY FAMILY!

NATSUO-CHAN'S PAPA'S PRETTY PUSHY, ISN'T HE?

SO, I COULDN'T JUST SAY NO...

WE'LL MATCH YOUR SCHED-ULE!

THIS IS A TRIP TO WELCOME YOU BACK HOME, HINA-CHAN,

SO YOU CAN PICK THE DATE!

BUT ...

AND YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH YOUR PARENTS AROUND, EITHER.

BUT I DOUBT NATSUO-CHAN AND RUI-CHAN WILL BE ALL OVER EACH OTHER.

WELL, IT MIGHT BE AWKWARD,

IF YOU DO THAT, THEN AT THE VERY LEAST...

YOUR FEELINGS WON'T GET COM-PLETELY CRUSHED.

MMM.

LIKE MAKING A MOVE ON NATSUO-CHAN AND EITHER STEALING HIM FROM YOUR SISTER OR GETTING GLORIOUSLY REJECTED.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THAT'S WHY YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP PLAYING THE BIG SISTER.

THIS SUCKS!

I LOSE EITHER WAY!



CHAPTER 154: UNFORSAKABLE MEMORIES

PHEW. THANK GOOD-NESS THE WEATHER'S NICE.

PER-SONALLY, I WISH IT HAD RAINED ...

I'M SURPRISED YOU WANTED TO GO TO THE MOUNTAINS, HINA-CHAN.

DO YOU LIKE MOUNTAIN CLIMBING ?

I WAS WORRIED, SINCE THE FORECAST SEEMED A BIT SKETCHY.

GOOD THING WE DIDN'T RESCHED-ULE.

I DUNNO ABOUT CLIMBING, BUT I LIKE TO HIKE.

EXERCISE IS GREAT FOR DISTRACT-UM, CLEARING YOUR HEAD, Y'KNOW?

THAT'S TRUE. IT'S A GOOD WAY TO RE-CHARGE.

SKF

SKF

SKF

I CAN JUST FEEL THE SCENT OF THE GRASS AND THE TREES JUST WASHING AWAY ALL MY STRESS FROM WORK.

YEAH.

IT'S SO NICE STROLLING THROUGH NATURE.

YOU AND HINA-NEE COULD HAVE MORE FUN IF I WASN'T HERE, RIGHT?

YOU KNOW DAD WOULDN'T ALLOW THAT.

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME, AFTER ALL...

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE COME AS A BROTHER AND SISTER, SO LET'S JUST ACT LIKE IT.

I GUESS SO.

I SAID WE'RE TAKING A FAMILY TRIP! THAT INCLUDES YOU, MISTER!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE BUSY WITH CLUB?!

I OVERHEARD YOU GUYS TALKING ON THE PHONE. HE BLEW UP AT YOU, DIDN'T HE?

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A CHOICE...

HUH?

I WAS ROOTING FOR DAD WHEN YOU WERE TALKING, THOUGH.

AS YOUR *LITTLE SISTER*, TOO.

I MEAN, I'D BE SAD...

...IF YOU DIDN'T COME.

THANKS, RUI...

I'VE BEEN LISTENING TO IT EVERY DAY.

YOUR "ONII-CHAN" RECORDING I BOUGHT WITH FIVE KISSES...

WHA?!

O-ONII-CHAN.

NOW, NOW. NO FIGHTING, YOU TWO.

HAはは HAはは HAはは

YEAH, WHAT'S NEW?

CUT IT OUT, YOU PERVERT!

THE SCENERY'S NICE, SO WHY DON'T WE HAVE LUNCH HERE?

THE OCEAN LOOKS SO PRETTY!

THIS MAKES ME REALIZE HOW OUT OF SHAPE I AM.

PHEEEEW. WE'RE FINALLY HALFWAY THERE.

THE THREE OF US GOT UP EARLY TO MAKE IT.

OOOH! IT LOOKS GREAT!

I'M GUESSING HINA-CHAN MADE THESE?

S-SORRY...

くぅ GLOOP ちゃ...

I SEE.

I'LL NEVER GET MARRIED AT THIS RATE.

YEAH, I KNOW.

NOW, NOW.

THESE DAYS, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO COOKS.

THANKS FOR HAVING MY BACK...

THESE STUFFED FISH CAKES ARE GREAT!

WELL, HINA-NEE'S COOKING MIGHT LOOK KINDA ROUGH, BUT IT TASTES FINE!

PFFT

OH, THAT RE-MINDS ME.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HAVING AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE, HINA?

I BROUGHT YOU UP WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT SWITCHING CAREERS,

AND HE WONDERED IF YOU'D LIKE TO MEET HIS SON.

MY CLIENT'S SON WANTS TO GET MARRIED.

HE SAID HE'S THREE YEARS OLDER THAN YOU.

I REMEM-BERED WHEN YOU MENTIONED MARRIAGE.

TISSUE, TISSUE...

A-

AN AR-RANGED MAR-RIAGE?

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?

UMM...

I-

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

I JUST THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE NICE TO MEET HIM IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO, OF COURSE.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? PUT A WARM CLOTH OVER THEM? MASSAGE THEM?

MY, YOU'RE RIGHT.

SHIV カク

SHIV カク

SHIV カク

MY LEGS!

THEY'RE SHAKING LIKE CRAZY!

I'LL GOOGLE IT.

OH, MAN!

SQUATS?!

APPAR-ENTLY, SQUATS ARE A GOOD IDEA.

IF YOU DO THAT, THEN AT THE VERY LEAST YOUR FEELINGS WON'T GET COMPLETELY CRUSHED.

YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP PLAYING THE BIG SISTER.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN HAVING AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE?

I KNOW IT'S POINTLESS TO HOLD OUT HOPE.

WHY CAN'T I GIVE UP?

THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY QUESTION NOW THAT HE AND RUI ARE DATING.

!

ゴソ RSTL

ゴソ RSTL

HONESTLY, IT MIGHT BE EASIER...

...IF HE JUST SHOOTS ME DOWN FOR GOOD.

...

NOW?! WAIT UNTIL TOMOR-ROW!

I KNOW WHERE IT IS. IT PROBABLY FELL OUT OF MY BAG WHEN I TOOK OUT THE TISSUES. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

I DROPPED SOMETHING.

I'M GONNA GO LOOK FOR IT!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING, HINA-NEE?

TAP TAP TAP

HINA SURE IS TAKING A WHILE.

NO. I HEARD IT RING FROM HER BAG WHEN I TRIED CALLING ...

ポッ PLIP

I HOPE SHE DIDN'T GET LOST...

SHE SAID SHE'D BE RIGHT BACK...

OH, GOD!

DOES SHE HAVE HER CELLPHONE ON HER?

ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK FOR HER?

YES, THE COTTAGE CAME WITH THEM.

DO WE HAVE AN UMBRELLA AND A FLASH-LIGHT?

IT'S RAIN-ING!

WHAT ?!

YOU MIGHT HURT YOURSELF. STAY HERE.

NOT WITH THOSE LEGS, DAD.

I'LL GO, TOO!

...

FAST

SLAM

BE CARE-FUL!

THANK GOD!

THE RAIN WOULD'VE WASHED IT AWAY IF I'D WAITED UNTIL TOMORROW ...

THERE IT IS!

WAIT, I CAN CELE-BRATE LATER.

I HAVE TO GET BACK!

Episode 1

ザーザー

CRAP, LIGHT-NING, TOO?

SPSH

SPSH

I HAVE TO HUR-RY!

ゴロゴロ

...!

ハァハァ

HINA-

NATSUO-KUUUN!

ANSWER ME!

HINA-NEE!

HINA-NEE!

THANK GOD! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING, RUNNING OFF ALONE WITH-OUT YOUR PHONE?!

I'M SORRY ...

HINA-NEE!

C'MON, LET'S GO BACK.

EVERY-ONE'S WAIT-

SHIK

FWOOSH

HWAH!

ERG!

FWUMP

AAAAAH!

SHIT!

THE UMBREL-LA!

NATSUO-KUN!

I'LL TAKE MY TIME WALKING BACK, SO YOU GO ON AHEAD, HINA-NEE.

I THINK I TWISTED MY ANKLE ...

I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU HERE!

TAP

OW ...

ARE YOU OKAY ?!

SKSSS

AT ANY RATE, WE SHOULD WAIT OUT THE RAIN UNDER A SMALL TREE OR...

OW ...

CAN YOU HELP ME UP?

CAN YOU STAND ?

SPSSPSH

WAIT, LOOK!

AH! THE WINDOW'S OPEN!

REALLY?!

HOW ABOUT OVER THERE ?

NO USE. IT'S LOCKED.

TAP

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'S USED MUCH.

MAYBE IT'S SOME KIND OF MAINTE-NANCE SHED...

THANK GOOD-NESS. WE CAN TAKE SHELTER HERE.

I SHOULD CALL THE OTHERS.

MY PHONE HAS A SIGNAL, THOUGH.

OH. THANKS.

I HAVE SOME CLOTHES IN MY BAG.

WH-WHY DON'T YOU CHANGE BEFORE YOU CATCH A COLD, HINA-NEE?

AH! HEY, DAD?

SLIP

YEAH, I FOUND HER.

HOW'S THE FORE-CAST?

YEAH.

SERI-OUSLY?

BUT I SLIPPED AND TWISTED MY ANKLE

APPAR-ENTLY, THERE'S A WARNING OUT FOR A MASSIVE RAIN-STORM.

THE ROADS ARE DANGER-OUS, SO WE SHOULD PROBABLY WAIT UNTIL MORNING TO—

ぐしょ

SOAKED!!



HUH?

THEN ...

...

...WE'RE GOING TO STAY HERE ALL NIGHT?

JUST THE TWO OF US?

PS PS PS SFHH!

...to be continued.

Extra Manga

LOVE TALK

HM?

HUH ?!

ぎゅ STRR っ…

I KNOW I LET IT SIT IN MY DRESSER FOR A WHILE, BUT...

DID MY BOOBS GROW AGAIN?

OR DID I GAIN WEIGHT?

WAS THIS BRA ALWAYS THIS TIGHT?

WHEN DID I BUY THIS, ANYWAY?

OH!

THAT'S RIGHT.

IT WAS WHEN I WAS TWENTY...

HEEEY! CAN WE GO YET?

RUI (14)

ISN'T THIS BRA A LITTLE BIG?

HUH? YOU'RE STARTING WITH THAT?!

STUFF

THIS SIZE IS PERFECT FOR SHOWING OFF YOUR FIGURE.

NOT AT ALL.

OH, WOW! THEY DO LOOK BETTER!

SEE? THIS IS THE PROPER WAY TO WEAR A BRA.

H-

HANG ON A MINUTE.

SWEET DROP

SKSH

LOOK, RUI! IT FITS PERFECTLY!

HEY!

AL-MOST THERE ...

IT'S NOT LIKE ANYONE'S GOING TO SEE IT...

WELL, THERE AREN'T MANY CUTE ONES THAT ARE BIG ENOUGH, SO I HAVE TO SNAP THEM UP WHEN-EVER I FIND THEM!

SORRY! I'LL TREAT YOU TO ICE CREAM LATER.

JEEZ... I WAS WAITING FOREVER.

BUT JUST IN CASE!

I MEAN, IT'S MOSTLY SELF-SATISFACTION,

WHY'D YOU HAVE TO TRY ON LIKE SIX DIFFERENT BRAS, ANY-WAY?

I DON'T HAVE ANYONE I LIKE.

I DUNNO.

HUH?

SAY, RUI.

OH...

HAS ANYONE EVER CONFESSED TO YOU?

WHAT KIND OF GUY WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT WITH?

LIKE IF HE'S OLDER, YOUNGER, FUNNY, QUIET...

THERE HAS TO BE SOME-THING YOU LOOK FOR IN A GUY.

HMM. IF I HAD TO SAY...

I DIDN'T GET WHY HE LIKED ME.

I NEVER REALLY TALKED TO HIM, SO I TURNED HIM DOWN ON THE SPOT.

WHAT AN ICE QUEEN...

BE MY GIRL-FRIEND!

I LIKE YOU!

NO WAY.

ONE TIME IN ELE-MENTARY SCHOOL.

IF WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MARRIAGE, I GUESS I'D WANT SOMEONE WITH A STABLE JOB.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CYNICAL AT 14?!

I DON'T THINK I'D BE VERY GOOD AT SHOWING AFFECTION.

AND BEING TOGETHER ALL THE TIME SEEMS LIKE IT'D STRESS ME OUT.

...THEN I GUESS I DON'T WANT SOMEONE WHO'S TOO CLINGY.

WE'D GO FOR DRIVES ON THE WEEKEND ...

...AND GO SHOPPING WHILE HOLDING HANDS.

ALL KINDS OF THINGS!

FOR ONE, HE HAS TO BE OLDER!

WHAT ABOUT YOU, HINA-NEE?

WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A BOY-FRIEND?

CAN I, HINA?

Y-

YEAH...

...JUST IN CASE ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER DURING A DATE.

AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE I ALWAYS HAVE CUTE UNDERWEAR ON...

I WANT OUR FIRST KISS TO BE ABOUT A MONTH AND A HALF AFTER WE START DATING,

IN THE CAR JUST BEFORE WE SAY GOODBYE AFTER A DATE. ♡

THAT'S REALLY SPECIFIC...

WHAT, BECAUSE OF MY UNDER-WEAR?

YOU LOOK EVEN CUTER THAN USUAL.

NO, SILLY. BECAUSE IT'S YOU WEARING IT.

THAT'S TOO MUCH!

EEEEEK

WHAT?! I'M PERFECTLY NORMAL!

EVERYONE FANTA-SIZES!

IT'S KINDA CREEPY.

YOU'RE PERVY, HINA-NEE.

LIFE'S JUST FULL OF SUR-PRISES,

HUH?

I NEVER WOULD'VE IMAGINED...

WE'D FALL IN LOVE WITH THE SAME PERSON.

NOW I FEEL THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT'S WHAT I USED TO THINK.

THAT TAKES ME BACK.

SLIDE

カリ

ラッ

O-OH! WELCOME HOME!

DAD TOLD ME TO COME OVER FOR DINNER ONCE IN A WHILE!

N-N-N-NATSUO-KUN?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

WHOA! SORRY!

END

Love-remains-ever-unpredictable

DOME X GIRL

Preview

!

CAN NATSUO RESIST TEMPTATION?!

OH ?

I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL LIKE YOU'RE BEING DESPER-ATE.

A NEW TRIAL AWAITS RUI?!

?!

AND SHOW NIGHT FOR FORESTER'S AMATEUR PERFORMANCE FINALLY ARRIVES!

EXPEC-TATIONS ARE HIGH.

YOUR MOTHER TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.

IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.

MY NAME IS KENGO TANABE.

HINA'S POTENTIAL HUSBAND APPEARS?!

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 17!

Domestic Girlfriend 16

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